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FBIS-NES-94-090 *10 May 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian Negotiator on Return of Refugees

TA0905145494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 May 94 pp 1, 18

[Text] Gaza—Attorney Khalid al-Qidrah, head of the Cairo talks Legal Committee, has said that it has been agreed that all Palestinians who were registered in the Gaza Strip, the Jericho area, and the West Bank up to 4 June 1967 will be repatriated to their homeland and families.

Al-Qidrah said that the agreement does not include only those who resided in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after the occupation and emigrated, but also those who lived there before the occupation. Agreement has been reached on the repatriation of these Palestinians as well.

Al-Qidrah noted that if a resident of the Gaza Strip or Jericho was traveling, studying, or employed abroad when the occupation took place, he has the right to return in accordance with the Declaration of Principles accord signed on 13 September.

Al-Qidrah said that talks over the timetable of this repatriation will be held within the coming days.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Team To Travel to Sanaa via Saudi Arabia

NC1005094894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—The Arab League Secretariat General has gained Saudi Arabia's approval to receive the Arab League delegation that will travel to Saudi territory and from there to Yemen overland on a new mediation mission to stop the fighting in Yemen.

The delegation, led by Major General Bayraqdar, assistant Arab League secretary general for military affairs, will leave Cairo Airport for Jeddah and from there travel overland to Sanaa across the Saudi border.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has asked the delegation to travel to Yemen and meet Yemeni leaders in an effort to stop the fighting, resolve the differences, and replace the guns with dialogue.

In a telephone contact with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah agreed to guarantee the delegation's arrival in Sanaa.

5 Countries Sign Electricity Grid Project Protocol

NC0905155694 Cairo MENA in English 1410 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 9 (MENA)—Electricity ministers from Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Turkey as well as a representative from the Iraqi electricity minister today signed the executive protocol of the Arab Mashreq Power Grid project.

The signing came at the end of ministerial meetings of the five countries, which opened yesterday under the chairmanship of Egyptian Minister of Electricity Mahir Abazah.

Under the protocol, the signatories will ask the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for funds to finance the project.

Abazah said feasibility studies have favored the Arab Mashreq Power Grid.

The upcoming session of the electricity ministers will be held in Ankara in April 1995.

Palestinian Affairs

Police Open Office in Israeli Army Headquarters

NC0905150294 Paris AFP in English 1346 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, May 9 (AFP)—The Palestinian police force opened a liaison office Monday [9 May] inside the Israeli Army's new military headquarters on the Gaza Strip, a PLO official said.

The bureau would be manned 24 hours a day to try to settle problems as they arose under autonomy, the official told AFP.

The HQ overlooks Ganei Tal, a settlement in the main Jewish area of occupation which surrounds the Palestinian town of Khan Yunis. The Army shifted there from Gaza City to facilitate their mission to protect Israeli settlers.

Meanwhile, Israeli military administration officials at Khan Yunis and Rafah called in local Palestinian dignitaries for a farewell ceremony on Monday.

The PLO official said the new police force would soon take over the buildings.

About 300 policemen were to cross into the newly-autonomous strip at the Rafah border with Egypt later Monday, Palestinian and Israeli officials said.

PLO leaders on the strip earlier met senior Palestinian employees of the administration to prepare the transfer of civilian authority.

Palestinian officials said the meeting at the PLO's temporary police headquarters in Gaza City covered the range of civilian affairs, from identity cards to telephones, health, education and employment.

No date has been set for the Israelis to hand over to the Palestinians responsibility for running their daily lives, but the officials said it would take place gradually over the coming days.

Palestinian Forces Arrive in Rafah from Saudi Arabia

NC0905204694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 9 May 94

[Excerpts] Rafah, 9 May (MENA)—Six Saudi Air Force planes landed at al-Jawrah Airport near Rafah this evening carrying about 450 Palestinian police members. The force arrived in Saudi Arabia from Yemen by an overland route. Another plane arrived carrying RPG's and Kalashnikov rifles in closed boxes. [passage omitted]

This is the second group of Palestinian forces to arrive in Rafah on the international border with Israel. About 350 men arrived yesterday from the al-Yarmuk Camp in Cairo.

Other forces from Yemen, Sudan, and Libya will arrive in Rafah tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Police Force Expected To Enter Jericho 10 or 11 May

JN0905171194 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] A Palestinian police force awaiting Israeli permission to deploy in Jericho was delayed for a second day today, pending inspection of the weapons they plan to bring. PLO Ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said the police will enter tomorrow or the day after tomorrow.

The 270 police who were to be the first contingent were joined early today by another 430 Palestinian soldiers. Meanwhile, a first contingent of the Palestinian police force camped on the Egyptian side of the border and was expected to enter Gaza later today.

'Sources' Cited on Arming of Police Forces

JN0905162694 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 8-9 May 94 p 1

[By Hanadi Saqf-al-Hayt]

[Text] AKHIR KHABAR accompanied the Palestinian police unit affiliated with the Badr Brigade, which arrived at King Husayn Bridge this morning on its way to the Jericho area.

The unit's 270 members, each armed with a Kalashnikov, were transported by bus.

Well-informed Palestinian sources in Amman said that Jordan will arm the Palestinian police force affiliated with al-Aqsa Brigade, which will arrive from Iraq within the next two days. This force will be supplied with cars, equipment, and weapons at the Pilgrims' City in Wadi Nimrin near al-Shunah al-Janubiyah.

The sources told AKHIR KHABAR that the Iraqi Government prevented the Palestinian forces from taking their weapons and equipment with them. It allowed them to leave their camps in Iraqi territory for the Jordanian border post at al-Ruwayshid with only their personal belongings. This forced President Yasir 'Arafat, during his recent visit to Jordan, to ask His Majesty King Husayn to arm these forces in Jordan. For his part, his majesty showed a willingness to supply the weapons these forces asked for, allowing them to choose the kind of weapons they wanted; that is, the Western M16, or the Eastern Kalazhnikov. 'Arafat asked for Kalashnikovs.

AKHIR KHABAR also learned that Palestinian officials in Amman will buy cars and other equipment from the Free Zone [in al-Zarqa'] within the next two days in order to equip these forces.

The Palestinian sources said that this has led to a change in arrangements in terms of the forces' entry into Jericho. The al-Aqsa forces stationed in Iraq were supposed to enter the Jericho area via the King Husayn Bridge only one day after the signing of the Cairo accord. However, the forces affiliated to Badr Brigade, stationed in Jordan, entered Jericho instead.

Iraq-Based Palestinian Forces Enters Jordan

JN0805180694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The first group from the al-Aqsa forces of the Palestine Liberation Army stationed on Iraqi territory arrived at the border post of al-Karamah-al-Ruwayshid this morning en route to the occupied territories. This group is composed of 600 officers, non-commissioned officers, and other ranks.

Palestinian Ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said these forces' entry at the al-Ruwayshid border post came at the request of the Palestinian leadership. His Majesty King Husayn ordered that all necessary facilities be provided to these forces during their stay on Jordanian territory, and that they be treated as the guests of the Jordanian Armed Forces, which will equip and arm them.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the ambassador added that both Jordan's permission for this group to enter Jordanian territory and the provision of the necessary assistance to them are definitive proof of the true and profound fraternity between the sisterly Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and their common fate. Moreover, this confirms the eagerness of the Hashemite leadership, represented by His Majesty King Husayn, to enable the sons of the Palestinian people to achieve their national objectives on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO.

This group was welcomed by representatives from the Jordanian Armed Forces and by the Palestinian military attache at the Palestinian Embassy in Amman.

In another development, 'Abd-al-Rahim said the Palestinian police forces' entry into Gaza and Jericho areas is linked to the announcment of the formation of the

Palestinian national authority. The Palestinian leadership is continuing its meetings in the Tunisian capital to officially form this authority, he added.

The Palestinian ambassador attributed the delay in the Palestinian police forces' entry into Gaza and Jericho areas today to technical reasons linked to the Israeli procedures concerning these forces' weapons. He explained that contacts are continuing in this regard between the heads of the Palestinian and Israeli negotiating delegations, Sha'th and Shahaq.

PLO Appoints Security Chiefs for West Bank, Strip

TA0905072094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources in Tunis have told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that during the recent Cairo talks the PLO agreed not to put Palestinian collaborators on trial but refused to grant them a pardon. It is expected that the file of the collaborators will be handled by Jibril al-Rujub, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, who has been appointed as the official responsible for the West Bank's preventive security [al-amn al-wiqa'i]. Al-Rujub is expected to return to the territories next Friday. Moreover, Muhammad Dahlan, member of the PLO Gaza Committee, has been appointed as the official responsible for the Gaza Strip's preventive security.

Debate Over New Authority's Mode of Operation Cited

NC0805194394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Tunis, 8 May (MENA)—The PLO Executive Committee met today chaired by Yasir 'Arafat to continue discussing the formation of the National Authority Council, the body that will assume the responsibility of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho following Israeli withdrawal.

PLO Executive Committee Member Samir Ghawshah said that Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), Faruq Qaddumi, Jamal al-Surani, Sulayman al-Najjab, and he himself declined to participate in the Council.

Ghawshah disclosed that he is seeking clarification from 'Arafat concerning the Council's mode of operation, 'Arafat's leadership style, and the relation between the PLO Executive Committee and the Council, before he decides whether to participate in the council.

Ghawshah pointed out that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi have both asked for some time to think about participating in the Council. Yasir 'Amr and Juwayd al-Ghusayn have agreed to participate in the Council. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, and Mahir al-Misri, a prominent figure in Nabulus, have both refused to take part in the Council.

There is a consensus among Palestinian officials inside and outside the homeland not to take part in the Council until they are offered clarification about the Council's operating procedure and guarantees that 'Arafat will not be the sole decision-maker. These officials also call for a clear definition of the relation between the PLO Executive Committee and the Council. They believe that the PLO Executive Committee should control the Council that it will form and retain the authority to shape Palestinian policy, Ghawshah declared.

A committee formed of Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-Mazin and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh will get in touch with Palestinian figures at home and abroad to explore the conditions under which they would be willing to participate in the National Authority Council and ascertain their opinion concerning the Council's mode of operation.

Executive Members Disagree on Forming Authority

PM0905140994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 May 94 p 5

[Rashid Khashanah report: "Palestinian Officials' Reservations Delay Announcement of National Authority Formation"]

[Text] Tunis—The [PLO] Executive Committee failed to agree at its third meeting in Tunis yesterday on forming the Palestinian authority because of reservations expressed by many of its members and figures from inside the occupied territories about the way in which President 'Arafat ran the consultations on forming the authority.

President 'Arafat departed Tunis for South Africa at noon yesterday after agreeing with Executive Committee members to resume the meeting Wednesday morning—which means postponing the handover of powers to the Palestinian authority.

An Executive Committee member has said that only three members at yesterday's meeting—which was attended by Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Samir Ghawshah, Jawid al-Ghusayn, Jamal al-Surani, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, 'Ali Ishaq, and Yasir 'Amr—announced their agreement to participate in the authority. The three are: 'Amr, al-Ghusayn, and al-Nashashibi. Four members announced their refusal openly. They are: Abu-Mazin, Abu-al-Lutf, Ghawshah, and al-Surani. As for 'Abd-Rabbuh, he asked for some time to consider the issue.

During the meeting President 'Arafat phoned Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab, who is in Amman, and People's Party leader Bashir al-Barghuti, asking them to participate in the authority, but they refused. 'Ali Ishaq did not give a specific reply. Maybe because Muhammad 'Abbas (Abu-al-'Abbas), leader of

the Palestine Liberation Front, represented by Ishaq, asked to come to Tunis and discuss the issue alone with President 'Arafat.

AL-HAYAH has learned that during the meeting yesterday some Executive Committee members raised the need to agree first on rules for the authority so that its role will be clear, especially its link with the Executive Committee as an authority for the Palestinian authority.

Al-Nashashibi stressed during the debates the need to define responsibilities for the authority and to draw up rules similar to those whereby the Executive Committee operates. Other speakers criticized what they termed "haste" in the Palestinian police's entry into Gaza and Jericho. They demanded that the leadership method be changed before agreeing on the names. They expressed their fear of a repetition of the "autocratic method," which they said has for some years been adopted by the Executive Committee.

Some Executive Committee members objected to what they termed Fatah's monopoly on decisions and appointments to sensitive posts. They said that the appointments were made without consulting the Executive Committee and sometimes without consulting the Fatah Central Committee itself, merely on the grounds that President 'Arafat is the chairman of the Palestinian authority.

As for figures inside the occupied territories, AL-HAYAH has learned that a series of contacts have been held with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Mahir al-Masri, and Faysal al-Husayni. They all refused to be included in forming the authority. President 'Arafat invited al-Husayni to meet with him in Tunis on Wednesday. While contacts with Ilyas Frayj have produced no results so far, as he asked for time to consider the issue.

An Executive Committee member said that the tension accompanying the appointment of the Palestinian authority members is attributable to the fact that the matter no longer has anything to do with the issuing of statements and adoption of positions. "It is a real responsibility as regards the running of Palestinian affairs in the Jericho area and the Gaza Strip, from power, education, and health care to developing the course of the economic and financial cycle."

He pointed out that current meetings and consultations at the Executive Committee level coincide with the donors' observations about the method of making economic decisions and managing international aid, and also with the "confusion" which Executive Committee members have noted in the police forces' entry into Gaza and Jericho, and which has led to delaying the selection of the authority members.

Sha'th: Palestinians Will Control Foreign Affairs

PM0905150994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Sawsan Abu-Husayn report: "Nabil Sha'th Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Palestinian Foreign Affairs Will Not Be Under Israeli Control"]

[Text] Cairo—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has confirmed that Yasir 'Arafat is ready to take over the national authority this week. He said that executive steps have already begun for the assumption of national authority and that Palestinian police units will begin to arrive in Gaza and Jericho. The vanguards of these forces, he said, have reached the Egyptian-Palestinian border.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Sha'th explained the "agreement, emphasizing that it is much better than the Declaration of Principles because there have been many amendments. If those opposed to the agreement knew these amendments well, they would change their minds because the agreement is very different from the Declaration of Principles. [quotation mark as published]

He stressed that the agreement was, for the first time, signed by the PLO and the state of Israel and that it was agreed to call the national authority the Palestinian Authority. That authority will implement all the international agreements concluded by the PLO. That authority, he said, will have the right to take charge of foreign affairs, which, in other words, will not be under Israeli control. The Palestinian Authority will have the right to have representative offices abroad in addition to the existing embassies of the state of Palestine throughout the world.

As an example of the Palestinian Authority handling its own foreign affairs, Sha'th cited the agreement he signed with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on aid in the transfer of authority, to the tune of $5 million and 200 police vehicles.

He said the agreement consisted of three parts: The first is the agreement itself, the second consists of four appendices, and the third consists of exchanged letters. They complement one another "and we can say that this agreement is a first step that will lead to other steps related to Jerusalem, the repatriation of refugees, the area of Jericho, and the settlements." He added that "in the transitional period the PLO will work on the Jerusalem issue to ensure that our rights in it are not eroded."

He also said: The Palestinian-Israeli agreement is a prelude to comprehensive peace based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and not as claimed by certain people who try to cast doubt.

He descsribed what has been published about formation of an authority council as mere speculation, noting that the PLO's Executive Committee was in continuous session for the purpose of setting up the authority.

On the powers of the Palestinian Authority, Sha'th said that Palestinian officials would have a right to stop and detain an Israeli suspect and then hand him over to the Israeli authorities, and also prohibit possession of arms by members of the public without a license.

On the date of 'Arafat's departure for Jericho, he said: That will be announced minutes before it takes place.

Al-Najjab Criticizes Self-Rule Agreement

JN0905164694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 May 94

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab, in Amman, by Sa'id Mu'addi from the "With the Events" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member, currently in Amman: You boycotted the Executive Committee meetings. You also refuse to take part in the Palestinian authority. What is the reason?

[Al-Najjab] I did not attend the Executive Committee meetings, which were devoted to endorsing decisions that were made without consultation with the Executive Committee. I announced that I would not take part in the Palestinian authority under the agreement recently signed in Cairo. This authority would remain under the control of the Israeli military government, and it is rather similar to a civil administration. That is why I refused to participate in this authority.

[Mu'addi] What is the solution, and what should Yasir 'Arafat do in this phase? Why does the minority not comply with the majority's decision?

[Al-Najjab] Many Executive Committee members are not attending the meetings being held in Tunis. I am fully convinced that this agreement will not succeed in achieving any of the Palestinian people's national objectives. This agreement will not improve the Palestinian people's living conditions. Our people will continue to adhere to their goal regarding national independence and solving the refugees' issue in accordance with UN resolutions.

[Mu'addi] You are the [Palestinian] People's Party's representative in the Executive Committee. What is the alternative to the Israeli-Palestinian agreement?

[Al-Najjab] As you know, I believe that we have long been demanding a peaceful settlement of both the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian-Israeli dispute based on implementing the pertinent UN resolutions, particularly the Security Council resolutions. This agreement is not a phased or final solution. The solution, or the alternative, is to hold more serious negotiations, which should be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and which should seek their implementation, rather than to avoid the implementation of, or commitment to, these resolutions.

What is required is to secure Israeli withdrawal as stipulated by the Security Council resolutions. The Gaza-Jericho arrangements, or agreement, have nothing to do with implementing the UN resolutions. This agreement, rather, seeks to entrench the current situation.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Sulayman al-Najjab: There are Palestinian figures from the West Bank and Gaza Strip who refuse to join the future Palestinian authority. What is your comment?

[Al-Najjab] What you indicate proves that this agreement has not convinced anyone that it will secure even a temporary solution. The alternative is to search for a solution that will secure the Palestinian people's rights. Such a solution can be achieved if the Israeli side commits itself to Resolution 242 and to the fact that any phased settlements are only preparations and steps on the path of implementing Resolution 242.

[Mu'addi] But there is an agreement signed by the two sides regarding the transitional phase.

[Al-Najjab] If the Palestinian people, or their majority, do not accept this agreement, then it cannot be implemented. There are many examples in this regard. The fate of any solution that does not secure both the Palestinian people's rights and the actual interests of both sides would... [sentence incomplete as heard]

[Mu'addi] Mr. Sulayman al-Najjab, Executive Committee member, currently in Amman: Thank you very much.

[Al-Najjab] You are very welcome, Sa'id.

'Arafat Receives Yemeni Ambassador

LD0705185294 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 May 94

[Excerpt] This morning, President Yasir 'Arafat received Yemen Ambassador Ahmad Muhammad Haydar. The talks focussed on the volatile situation in brotherly Yemen and the need for swift solutions to avert bloodshed and preserve the achievements of the brotherly Yemeni people.

President 'Arafat stressed his readiness to exert utmost efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Yemen and assigned brother 'Abbas Zaki [member of Fatah's Central Committee and former head of PLO's office in the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen] to follow up the issue and go to Yemen to exert his efforts within this framework. [passage omitted]

Hamas Rejects Agreements, Vows Continued Struggle

PM0905151394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 May 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Vows To Continue Its Operations, Warns Against 'One-Party System'"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) yesterday vowed to continue its operations against the Israeli occupation despite the agreement signed by the PLO and Israel in Cairo to implement self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. It described the agreement as "capitulationist, null and void, and not binding on the Palestinian people."

In a statement, of which AL-HAYAH has received a copy, Hamas urged the Palestinian authority and its police to serve the people. It warned of "the consequences of factionalism, a one-party system, submitting to the Zionist enemy, and preventing our people's mujahidin from carrying out resistance operations against the occupation army and settlers."

Hamas welcomed "dialogue and meeting with all Palestinian national forces and influential figures on the basis of continuing the resistance, defeating the occupation, and sparing our people the calamities of sedition and infighting." It condemned "the use of arms to resolve political and family disputes."

Hamas vowed to continue mass struggle "against the occupation and its symbols." [passage omitted]

Arab MK on Prison Visit to Hamas' Shaykh Yasin

JN0805175194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] [Arab] Member of the Knesset [MK] Talab al-Sani' has met with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, a founding member of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, at ('Ashmoret) Prison today. Talab al-Sani' had this to say about the session:

[Begin recording] [Al-Sani'] The meeting follows recent political developments. This is not the first time I have called on Shaykh Yasin at the prison. I met with Foreign Minister Shim'on to press for Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's release against the background of recent political developments and Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's deteriorating health.

[Unidentified reporter] Political developments in the peace process and the Israeli-Palestinian agreement must have come up during your talk with him. Where does he and the Islamic movement in general stand on these issues?

[Al-Sani'] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin expressly stated that Hamas will not use violence to topple the agreements; it will use the same civilized methods used on the Israeli street. He said the opposition has the right to express itself. Hamas, said Shaykh Yasin, will respect the Palestinian police force in that it is of the Palestinian people. As for the prospects for Shaykh Yasin's release, he said it is every human being's wish is to be free and that freedom is a natural right for every human being. However, he is in detention because he believes in the Palestinian people's right to freedom. He also argues that people under occupation are entitled to resist occupation. Shaykh Yasin said he supports the principle of a just peace that guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He is opposed to occupation and the shedding of innocent blood on both sides. [end recording]

Islamic Leader in Damascus: Ron Arad Only MIA Alive

TA0905200794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 May 94

[Linda Sherzer video report; italicized passages in English]

[Excerpts] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader, maintains that navigator Ron Arad is the only IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier missing in Lebanon who is still alive. Al-Shaqaqi made this observation in an interview with Linda Sherzer in Damascus last week. He contends that he does not know where Ron Arad is being held today. Here is Linda Sherzer's report from Syria:

[Begin recording] [Sherzer] Before Fathi al-Shaqaqi was expelled from the Gaza Strip, he was considered one of the most dangerous people there. In his office in Damascus, he proudly explains the reason:

[Al-Shaqaqi] *From October '86 to October '87, we killed from the Israeli soldiers more than all the other factions inside Palestine.*

[Sherzer] [passage omitted] *You have travelled through the Arab world. Do you know anything about the fate of the missing Israeli servicemen?*

[Al-Shaqaqi] *You know, I think all the Israeli soldiers, except Ron Arad, are dead.*

[Sherzer] *Do you know that for a fact?*

[Al-Shaqaqi] *Yes, for a fact.*

[Sherzer] Nowadays he and his wife and two children live in Damascus. He teaches his four-year-old daughter about the Palestinian cause. In his opinion, the Gaza-Jericho agreement is a disaster. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Algeria

Sifi Says Security Forces Control All Regions

LD0905205794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Head of government Mokdad Sifi has given an exclusive interview to today's LE PARISIEN, in which he has reiterated Algeria's hope in all its sons.

Concerning the security situation, the head of government has reaffirmed that the security forces are in control of all regions, despite an increase in provocative acts at times. He asserted that anything else is merely propaganda and biased interpretations.

The head of government has stressed Algeria's respect for human rights and pointed out that instructions had been given to the security forces to avoid the pitfall of abuses.

Replying to a question regarding what Algeria was expecting from France, Sifi said: Everything of concern to Algeria should be of concern to France. It is in the interest of France to help Algeria, because our country's problems, if not checked, will have repercussions in the Arab Maghreb and France. Once the situation stabilizes, Algeria will be one of the biggest markets for France and Europe.

Concerning the Algerian expatriate community in France, the head of the government said it is possible for such a community—it is its duty—to play an important role. Our citizens should play a role in the management of the country, he added.

As far as the political issues in the country are concerned, Sifi has affirmed that dialogue is continuing with Algerians, who jealously support the unity of the people and the homeland. His government has no right, however, to choose a political model for the society. Hence, it is not right for any political minority to impose its will upon others, he added.

Imam, Muezzin Assassinated in Boumerdes, Tiaret

LD0905201294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 May 94

[Excerpt] The spiral of terrorism continues. The security services announced today that two citizens have been assassinated by two terrorists in the provinces of Boumerdes and Tiaret.

The imam of the Baghlia mosque in Boumerdes province was stabbed to death; his body was found near an elementary school in Bourj Menial municipality. Rached Benallou, 43 years old, who was the muezzin of El Rahouia in Tiaret province, was also murdered. [passage omitted]

Imam Decries Killing of French Citizens; 4 Arrested

LD0905195094 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 9 May 94

[Excerpts] The Algerian Fraternity in France, which is considered to be very close to the Islamic Salvation Front, has strongly condemned the killing in Algeria of two French religious figures. For officials of the fraternity, this double killing is probably the work of the enemies of Algeria. It is provocation.

It is the case that 34 foreign nationals, including 10 French citizens, have so far been killed in Algeria since September. Jerome Bony and Bruno Giraudon, our special correspondents in Algiers, report:

[Bony] People are dismayed in Algiers' Casbah after the killing yesterday of Paule-Helene Saint-Raymond and Henri Verges. Among those who miss the two religious figures most and who dare to say so is the imam of the neighboring mosque:

[Begin unidentified imam recording] They were people who helped the needy. They were on the side of the needy. Some people needed them to fill in forms for retirement in France. They came to see them for help. They asked them to write letters to the social security services in France. They did favors for everyone, both men and women, without any distinction. Without any distinction among human beings. [passage omitted] We are asking God ... [pauses] These people must be exterminated with God's help. This is all I can say. [end recording]

[Bony] Yesterday, after the killings, the Casbah district was cordoned off by the police and, according to information we gathered on the ground this morning, four young people are believed to have been arrested. More police operations are taking place in Algiers right now, but it is impossible to say who are those behind the double killing of Sister Paule and Brother Henri, who will be buried here, in Algiers, soon.

Tunisian Envoy Delivers Message to Zeroual

LD0905154694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 May 94

[Excerpts] Head of State Liamine Zeroual received today Mr. Said Ben Mustafa, the Tunisian secretary of state for Maghreb affairs, who delivered a message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Ahmed Attef, the secretary of state to the foreign minister in charge of cooperation and Maghreb affairs.

After his meeting with the head of state, the Tunisian envoy made the following statement to the national radio:

[Begin Mustafa recording] I had the honor to convey a personal message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to President Liamine Zeroual.

The message falls within the framework of continued consultations in all forms. [passage omitted]

The situation in Yemen also was a subject of consultation between President Zeroual and President Ben Ali, and these consultations are going on. Among my tasks was to convey to the head of state the views of President Ben Ali about the recent developments in Yemen. Both presidents are working towards helping the brothers in Yemen to overcome this difficult period. [end recording]

Military Reshuffle Begins Zeroual's 'Real Rule'

PM0605131294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 May 94 p 1

[Excerpts] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Reliable Algerian sources confirmed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that the large-scale military changes announced by President Major General Liamine Zeroual fall within the framework of bolstering the march to be staged on Sunday in support of dialogue. The sources said that most of the generals appointed in zone commands and the General Staff "are advocates of dialogue, or at least, have adopted no positions on it." The sources stressed that these generals are loyal to Maj. Gen. Zeroual, who is also the defense minister. [passage omitted]

The sources said that these changes means the beginning of President Zeroual's real rule. The march to be staged on Sunday will grant him a popular legitimacy he still lacks. The sources pointed out that the replacement of Gen. Abdelhamid Djaouadi, commander of the 5th zone (Constantine), confirms the decision to reduce the powers of those advocating "all-out confrontation." However, other sources said that his dismissal is part of the decision to punish those who were accused of negligence in connection with the great escape from Tazoult prison, which involved over 900 prisoners.

The sources stress that these changes are a prelude to further changes in the next stage.

Economic, Social Council Members Announced

LD0905175094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The composition of the executive bureau of the National Economic and Social Council was announced at the Palace of Nations a few moments ago. The council is composed of the following:

Mohamed Laid Anane, Abdelmadjid Sidi Said, Mustapha Mekideche, Mohamed Hamida, A'bdeslam Bouchareb, Samia Belabbes, Hocine Ait Chaalal, Mehrez Ait Belkacem, and Mohamed Zaaf.

The council is under the obligation to be fully prepared and devoted to the job. The members of the council were chosen after long consultations.

Sifi Inaugurates Council

LD0905174994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Here is the full text of the speech by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi at today's inauguration ceremony of the National Economic and Social Council.

[Begin Sifi recording] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, chairman of the Consultative Council, ladies and gentlemen ministers, ladies and gentlemen. May God's peace, compassion, and blessings be upon you.

I am honored and pleased to join you today at the inauguration of the National Economic and Social Council [al-majlis al-watani al-iqtisadi wa al-ijtima'i]

On this occasion I present to you, on behalf of the head of state and the government, my warm congratulations for everyone's choice and the trust put in you. I also express to the organizations and institutions which appointed you my satisfaction with the constructive spirit and broad view they expressed during the consultations which brought them together with the government on setting up this Council, which has a special importance.

The installation of the National Economic and Social Council, which will be followed by the National Transitional Council, is a symbol of the break with past practice, which we hope to instill, and is proof of our eagerness to engage in open consultation with all the participants in national life.

Ladies and gentlemen, the state, while opting for opening up to its economic and social partners in order to create this council, affirms its desire to ensure the actual participation of all sections of society in order to take charge over the future of our country.

I am convinced that this opening up of our state to society, the choice of competence, and giving the necessary opportunities to our youth, will be a starting point toward the better management of our country's affairs. Thanks to your ideas and the suggestions which you submit to the government, we will continually consolidate and deepen the citizens' contribution to preparing the social and economic decisions which concern them and define their future. I hereby affirm the government's eagerness for the development of this consultation so as to take charge of coordinating the economic reforms which will be witnessed by the country, and for the revival of national development, which will benefit large sections of our people. This was the concept stressed by the head of state recerntly before the Council of ministers, and which is related to the need to give necessary attention to promoting national solidarity and social justice.

At the same time, great attention will be given to those sectors financing the economy, such as the hydrocarbons sector or those which comply with economic growth, and society's needs such as agriculture, housing, and small and medium industries. Our national development will remain characterized by social justice and the state's contribution in parallel with the reforms, which aim at improving efficiency and freeing creative initiatives. Better than that, this development will be further consolidated through extended consultation with all representatives of society, and in this lies the final split with the spirit of monopoly, whatever its nature.

In this respect, the composition of your council provides a better framework to identify the real points of strength and weaknesses of our country, and to collectively identify the best ways and means which enable Algeria to fully utilize its actual resources.

Ladies and gentlemen, at a time when our country embarks on profound reforms and the international arena, when we experience fast and profound changes—from which the economic, technological, and scientific domains cannot escape, your council represents a considerable achievement to promote the interests of our country and people. Indeed, in parallel with the revival of the national economy, Algeria has to open up economically toward the outside world in order to occupy its real status within the international exchange.

On the other hand, it is imperative for our country, especially when youth constitutes the majority of its population, and especially now, to be concerned with the future perception of its development in order to ensure a respected future for the rising generations through the promotion of efforts and the exploitation of creative energies that are the sources for good and prosperity.

Such ideas, which have now acquired a wide and permanent framework through your council, underline to our people, regardless of the passing difficulties, that the hope of restoring its perpetual prosperity in a stable country, one respected by other nations, is a legitimate hope. It is because Algeria of the eternal November revolution still has plenty of the necessary energies to face up to all challenges.

All of this underscores the significance and vastness of the hopes pinned on this council, which will be concerned with fundamental national issues. The nation is awaiting rich ideas from you, ideas that will emanate from the diversity of your specializations and qualifications, and the state is awaiting from you reformist proposals.

I would like to stress, on behalf of the head of state, in my own name, and on behalf of the government, that we highly appreciate your brave commitment to serve the nation at this very time; the time when Algeria has to depend on its loyal children, who will never leave or abandon it. Before this heavy burden and great responsibility is laid on your shoulders, I cannot but wish you every success and righteousness, and stress to you my absolute support.

I have the honor to officially announce the installation of the Social and Economic National Council. May God help us all to accomplish everything that brings good, pride, and prosperity to Algeria. Peace be upon you and God's compassion and blessings. [end recording]

Egypt

Yemeni President Updates Mubarak on Situation

NC1005053494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last night telephoned President Husni Mubarak. The two presidents reviewed the latest developments in the conflict between the parties to the conflict in fraternal Yemen.

President Mubarak reiterated Egypt's desire to end the fighting between the brothers and to avoid the random attacks on vital installations and peaceful civilians. President Mubarak told the Yemeni president that Egypt is continuing its efforts to end the crisis quickly to protect the Yemeni people's interests and respect its will.

Muslim Brotherhood Appeals for Yemeni Unity

NC0905182694 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 May 94 p 1

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood has appealed to the parties to the conflict in Yemen to safeguard the public interest and settle their differences within the framework of a constructive dialogue based on God's shari'ah and to place Yemeni unity above any other consideration. In a statement released by the Muslim Brotherhood, it called on the Arab and Muslim rulers and all Arab and Muslim organizations to play the required role to close the Yemeni ranks and stop the bloodshed.

The Muslim Brotherhood expressed its worry about the deterioration of the situation in Yemen and the threat to Yemeni unity. It noted that the fraternal Yemeni people's property and resources are threatened. It stressed the need to pool efforts and resources to heal the rift in Yemen and bring the parties together in the interest of that country and its unity and its people's security, freedom, lives, and generation's resources.

Diplomatic Relations Established With S. Africa

NC0905113694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt has announced the resumption of diplomatic relations with South Africa at ambassadorial level as of Tuesday 10 May 1994.

A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today said Egypt's decision to establish diplomatic relations with South Africa conforms to Egypt's position, which supported all stages of the democratic movement and the annihilation of apartheid in South Africa. These movements began in 1989 and culminated with the democratic nonracial elections in April 1994. In the election, every citizen was able to exercise his right to chose his representative within the context of freedom, equality, and justice, thus ending the system of apartheid.

Authorities Seize Weapons Factory, Equipment

NC0905193394 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 6 May 94 p 6

[Excerpts] Al-Qalyubiyah detectives yesterday seized a weapons factory in Kafr Shukr in a surprise raid on the Shubra al-Khaymah and Kafr Shukr areas. The raid also resulted in the arrest of six dangerous drug traffickers and 25 people suspected of involvement in criminal cases. [passage omitted]

Large forces from the Central Security Agency, led by Deputy Director of al-Qalyubiyah Security Major General Sabri Shindi, Detective Department Director Brigadier General Taha al-Zahid, and Detective Chief Colonel Muhammad Rahim stormed the weapons factory in a basement of a house in Markaz Kafr Shukr owned by a dangerous person with a police record. Some 15 weapons, five live ammunition magazines, and equipment for manufacturing various types of weapons for sale to criminals and drug traffickers in the area were seized. [passage omitted]

Gunmen Injure 2 at Police Checkpoint

NC0905131794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—A security source in the Interior Ministry has stated that at around 0900 this morning, unknown gunmen opened fire on the checkpoint outside the Sadafa police station in Asyut Governorate in Upper Egypt. Two citizens who were passing by were slightly injured and taken to hospital for treatment.

The source said that the Asyut security department command and the investigations department went to scene of the incident. The source noted that the police are continuing their efforts to arrest the perpetrators. The prosecution has been informed and started investigating the incident immediately.

Sadafa Gas Station Shooting Wounds 2

NC0905162894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—Two citizens were injured today while passing by a gas station in Sadafa town in Asyut Governorate when shots were fired indiscriminately.

An Interior Ministry security source stated that citizen Muhammad Hasan Darwish informed the Sadafa police station that while he was inside the gas station that he owns he noticed some strangers wearing municipal clothing. He became suspicious of their movements and when he attempted to identify them, one of them fired shots in the air from a gun he took out from under his clothing. They exchanged gunfire and a regular sentry present at the scene of the incident also participated in the shooting.

The perpetrators of the crime escaped. They drove away in one of the cars parked in the taxi parking lot near the gas station.

The security source said that the two injured citizens are Fu'ad Zaki Abu-Yusuf, headmaster of Majris Preparatory School in Sadafa. He received superficial injuries in the nose. The second citizen is Ernest Anwar Askerios, an employee of the Social Security Department in the same town. He was shot in the neck and was taken to Sadafa General Hospital for treatment.

Commanders of the Asyut Security Department, men from the various investigation departments, and forensics experts moved to the scene of the crime to search for evidence. The police are concentrating their efforts on finding the criminals. The prosecution has been informed to proceed with the investigations.

Earlier the town of Sadafa was the scene of another terrorist incident where unknown gunmen fired at the checkpoint of the Sadafa police station.

Police Allegedly Torture, Kill Fundamentalist

NC0905183594 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 9 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces tortured to death a Moslem fundamentalist lawyer who defended the spiritual leader of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah militants, Cairo lawyers said Monday [9 May].

The death of 'Abd-al-Harith Madani a week after he was arrested was "a premeditated murder, and the torture he suffered was an odious crime," a statement from the Order of Cairo Lawyers said.

Madani was a leading member of the defence committee set up for al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic Group) spiritual guide Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who was sentenced to seven years in jail by the state security court last week. The al-Jama'ah has been waging a bloody two-year campaign to topple the secular government of President Husni Mubarak, in which more than 380 people have died.

An interior ministry official said he was "in no position to comment" on the lawyer's death.

The statement said Madani was arrested on April 26 and taken to a secret destination. "Not even his family knew where he was. They only heard about his death on Friday." The lawyers said they were "horrified" by Madani's death, describing it as "an act of aggression against all lawyers."

Security forces arrested Madani during a four-hour search of his office, in the presence of four colleagues.

The 40-year-old lawyer from Qina in northern Egypt was married with two daughters.

President of the Order of Egyptian Lawyers Ahmad al-Khawajah asked state prosecutor Raja' al-'Arabi to conduct a new autopsy on Madani's body Sunday in the presence of a doctor chosen by the order. The Egyptian Human Rights Organisation made a similar request two days after Madani's arrest, when it heard that the lawyer had been transferred to special wards in Qasr al-'Ayni hospital in Cairo reserved for prisoners, where according to unconfirmed reports Madani was killed.

The organisation also condemned the jailing of a journalist working for a pro-fundamentalist newspaper, AL-SHA'B, by a military court. The journalist, Abu-Husayn, was sentenced to a year in prison for "revealing military secrets," although the information—about military manoeuvres and arms purchases—was officially announced two weeks later, the organisation said.

Mubarak two years ago ordered that suspected Moslem militants appear before military courts to expedite their trials. But the human rights organisation said that Husayn's case showed that journalists and other opinion makers could also be tried before these courts.

'Terrorist' Financier Operating From Netherlands

NC0905153494 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 May 94 p 12

[Report by Mustafa al-Buhayri in London; from the "Good Day" column]

[Text] Millionaire Usamah Bin-Ladin, the primary source of financing for terrorist groups in Egypt and the Arab world, has requested political asylum in Holland.

Bin-Ladin, whose Saudi nationality has been withdrawn, manages his terrorist activities from Holland. He left Sudan after bombs were thrown at his home recently.

Bin-Ladin currently distributes leaflets opposed to Arab governments and regimes.

Fifteen Extremists 'Repent,' Surrender in Asyut

NC0705125394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, 7 May (MENA)—Governor of Asyut Samih al-Sa'id stated that 15 members of extremist groups gave themselves up today, declaring their repentance and their return to the right course. He said these repenters turned themselves over through the National Democratic Party's popular and political apparatuses.

Defense Minister Previews Talks With U.S.

NC1005072294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 10 May 94

[Excerpt] Washington, 10 May (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, has stated that his talks with U.S. officials during his current visit to Washington will deal with important issues, primarily the development of military cooperation between the United States and Egypt, the Egyptian Armed Forces' needs, and the modernization of armaments, in addition to issues pertaining to regional security and Egypt's role in achieving the region's security.

Speaking at a meeting with Egyptian correspondents in Washington, Field Marshal Tantawi said: In view of the changes dictated by the new world order, there is a constant need to develop and strengthen the Egyptian Armed Forces in the armaments and training fields. He added: Our Armed Forces should maintain a particular standard of strength and efficiency to play their role in establishing regional security in participation with the international community. He stressed that achieving this will be an investment in human resources, which will benefit society in every field.

The defense minister noted that the Armed Forces are constantly working to introduce advanced technology and modern training and armament systems and that this will be among the issues he will discuss in his meetings with U.S. officials.

Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi said: The Egyptian Armed Forces belong to the Egyptian people alone. According to this concept, the Armed Forces serve the Egyptian people and their development is an extremely important investment. The stronger these Armed Forces are the more capable they will be of protecting society and the homeland from any aggression.

The defense minister stressed that strengthening the Armed Forces will make them a deterrent force that others would have to consider, because any aggressor will have to think deeply before committing any aggression if he realizes that these forces can repel him.

Field Marshal Tantawi went on to say that U.S.-Egyptian cooperation in the military production sphere, both with regard to the advanced M1A tanks and other weapons, is proceeding well and that there are numerous opportunities for developing and expanding the scope of this cooperation. [passage omitted]

Discusses Modernization of Forces

NC1005082794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Washington, 10 May (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, has stated that the Egyptian Armed

Forces are working to achieve the right "balance" between their size and the level of their armament.

He said that achieving a reasonable and correct size relying on modern and advanced armament is better than keeping "outdated" weapons that require expensive maintenance and many troops, which is a burden and does not achieve the required benefit.

He said this is why the Egyptian Armed Forces are constantly working to develop and modernize their weapons.

In a statement, Field Marshal Tantawi said there is constant action within the framework of military cooperation between Egypt and the United States to agree on the new weapons that the Egyptian forces need. He noted that this will be one of the main issues that he will discuss with U.S. officials during his current visit to the United States. He also said that current cooperation between Egypt and the United States covers three main fields: training, armament, and maintenance.

The defense minister stressed that Egypt has its own concept of its Armed Forces' size and armament. He said that this "precise formula" needs careful study because an increase in the size of the Armed Forces will make them "overmanned." He added that the difficult point in the formula lies in a reduction in size requiring to be offset by advanced armaments that will replace the outdated weapons.

Field Marshal Tantawi regretted the fighting in Yemen. Answering a question, he said that no party can achieve real gains or emerge victorious from this fighting. The Yemeni people will be the loser.

Parliamentarians Warn of Dependence on U.S. Aid

NC0705101494 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 Apr 94 p 6

[Report by Mahmud Ghallab and Jihad 'Abd-al-Mun'im at the People's Assembly]

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly members yesterday warned against the increasing U.S. grants that help the government levy more taxes on Egyptians. They demanded that these grants be dedicated to productive services like water and electricity.

The members objected to the interference of the American Agency for International Development in the work of artisan associations through the extension of direct loans. They described AID requests for detailed information about the artisan associations involved as an attempt to obtain Egyptian secrets and thus establish U.S. control of craftsmen.

The Assembly members pointed out that the agreement to grant small business loans entitles AID to deal directly with any association demanding a loan provided that association agrees to submit its activity to inspection by AID auditors without interference by the Egyptian Government. The members said that the Government has thus waived its rights and created a state within a state.

People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur was asked why the Egyptian Government has relinquished its powers and left the associations on their own with AID. Once a grant is given by anyone, it becomes Egyptian. The Government has agreed to let associations benefit from AID grants, he said.

State Minister for International Cooperation Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali said that the associations have requested to deal directly with AID and they have rejected the government's intervention on the excuse that it delays loans. [passage omitted]

Some members expressed their fears that the U.S. side might specify the associations that will receive loans. Dr. Surur asked the state minister if the United States is entitled to determine which association gets a loan. Dr. Butrus-Ghali replied: The Egyptian Government specifies the associations that can get loans, provided that they have a certified board of directors. He added that 23,000 have obtained loans, averaging 2,200 Egyptian pounds. The rate of repayment is 98.5 percent, he said.

MP Salah Tawfiq remarked that the grant in its entirety will not even solve the problems of 4,000 craftsmen in Egypt, where there are millions of craftsmen. He rejected U.S. patronage of craftsmen, noting that the grant might harm Egypt through loans that result in U.S. control of craftsmen. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Urges Joint Action on Energy Projects

NC0705123894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak's speech was presented to the Fifth Arab Energy Conference which opened in Cairo today. In his speech, Mubarak proposed a plan to act as a nucleus for collective Arab action in petroleum spheres in light of the huge oil and natural gas resources available to the Arab countries, with their impact on the world energy situation.

President Mubarak's plan, which was read on his behalf by Oil Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, calls for finding a mechanism to achieve cooperation in designing and implementing petroleum, natural gas, and petrochemicals projects in the Arab countries. The plan also calls for devising ways to coordinate among Arab countries so that they will collectively have the ability to design, implement, and administer petroleum projects and manufacture the equipment necessary for these projects.

President Mubarak outlined the benefits the Arab countries would derive from this mechanism in implementing oil and natural gas projects. These benefits include lower costs, exchange of expertise, technology transfer, integration among Arab countries, and boosting capital industries with a view to creating more jobs and breaking the world monopoly on the implementation of oil projects.

As part of the executive measures for the project, the president proposed the formation of a cooperation

agency for petroleum projects comprising a national center for cooperation in oil projects in each of the member states and a primary coordination center in one of the Arab countries. This is in addition to forming a data bank to provide information on potential projects, the timing of their implementation, and the equipment and capabilities of the contractors. [passage omitted]

Libya

JANA Editor Questions U.S. Intent Toward Yemen

LD0805125694 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] The U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs made a statement in Amman yesterday in which he disclosed the U.S. Administration's determination to interfere in the events witnessed in Yemen. He described what is taking place there as civil war, and talked about what he called military victories and the determination to fight in these events.

This fact that this statement was made by someone who is also an official in the CIA reveals once again the dubious U.S. intentions toward this fraternal country.

In a comment on this, JANA's political editor asked whether these Americans have come to mediate, as their media claim, or whether they have come, as is their custom, to sow discord, incite hatred, and make the fighting spread, within the framework of the plan they are implementing to destroy the Arab nation.

Yemen

Northern Brigades Reportedly Advancing Toward Aden

Battle Said Raging in al-'Alam

JN0705194094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] A [words indistinct] source in the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces General Staff command has stated the following:

For the fourth consecutive day, the heroes of our brave Armed Forces, the forces of the people, unity, and constitutional legitimacy, and the defenders of democracy, have continued their victories on the various battlefields with God's help and support for his sons who are faithful to their people, nation, and homeland in the face of the forces of evil and [words indistinct] people and unity.

At 1300 today, [1000 GMT] the 2d Armored Brigade was able to advance and connect up with the al-'Amaliqah Brigade to form the continuous heroic bridge toward the realization of the main aim of the last chapter of the battle to support unity and democracy. They are now advancing with confidence to support the 8th Storm Brigade, the 56th Brigade, and the Unity Brigades toward the Aden Governorate, confronting the miserable remnants of the forces of the secessionist gang. These forces are now waging heroic battles in the al-'Alam area, 20 km from the beloved economic and trade capital, Aden, and approaching the last dens of the secessionist-plotting gang within the YSP leadership.

Today, these forces were able to besiege the misled elements of the [name indistinct] Brigade and a great number of its officers and men surrendered. The brigade's arms, equipment, and vehicles were captured.

In the Lahij Governorate, the 6th Unity Brigade and the 2d Armored Brigade [word indistinct] waged battles [passage indistinct].

Radio Foresees 'Crushing' of Al-Bid Forces

JN0905183794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] O masses of our lofty Yemeni people everywhere: The rotten clique is perpetrating its evil scheme against our people and their brave Armed Forces. This clique aims at destroying the homeland and wasting its resources. The separatist gang—which is rebelling against constitutional legitimacy, led by the butcher, who is immersed in the blood of conspiracies against our people, the so-called 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and his clique—is retaliating against Yemeni unity, your greatest achievement in the contemporary age. It is firing its missiles and shells on your historical and political capital, Sanaa, in order to annihilate its peaceful people.

It is not strange to see this gang, which killed and displaced thousands of Yemeni people in the black events of January 1986, seeking alliance with all devils and losing all sense of nationalism.

The sons of your brave Armed Forces are now waging the most honorable battle to purge the country of their filth. We will soon announce to you the crushing of the forces of apostasy, which reneged faith in God while raising the slogan of Communist ideology.

Forces Reportedly 3 Miles From Aden

AB0905201394 Paris AFP in English 1947 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 9 (AFP)—Troops loyal to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih broke through the last defenses north of Aden on Monday [9 May] and were just five kilometres (three miles) from the southern stronghold, the north said.

But an AFP correspondent in central Aden said the port city was calm with no sound of battle on the outskirts. Aden Radio played military music and rallied for reservists to join the battle.

A northern military spokesman in the capital, meanwhile, said Salih's troops were "waging decisive battles against the last remnants of secessionist forces."

The battle for Aden had reached Dar Sa'd, just five kilometres from the city, he said. Salih's troops also captured the south's main air base, Al-Anad, 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Aden.

The southern forces of Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a bitter rival of Salih, have a second air base in the Hadramaut, 700 kilometres (420 miles) east of Aden.

Two Scud missiles, meanwhile, crashed into the Yemeni capital, without causing any casualties. Witnesses said the missiles fell in empty lots in the suburbs, causing little damage.

The south has been counting on its warplanes and Scud missiles to hold off the north since civil war broke out on Thursday, after several months of political feuding between Salih and al-Bid.

To the north of Aden, a battle with tanks and artillery was raging for control of Dhaleh, a town 60 kilometres (35 miles) from the port city, the spokesman in Sanaa said.

Anti-aircraft guns had shot down a southern fighter over Abyan Province east of Aden and clashes were also taking place in Lahij Province north of the city.

Earlier the southern-controlled Defence Ministry said "thousands of citizens" had responded to a general mobilisation order to defend Aden, a city of more than 500,000 people, under attack from the north and east.

Aden Radio, preparing for a possible siege, said southern forces were putting up fierce resistance and had destroyed two of the north's bases outside the city.

The north, which had already said Sunday that Aden was about to fall, said its forces were Monday "ready at any moment to surround and break through the separatist strongholds... at the gates of Aden."

Seventy-four northern fighters have been killed and 240 wounded in a series of northern advances, military officials here said, giving the first toll issued by either side.

They said southern forces suffered "enormous losses."

Civil war erupted Thursday between forces loyal to Salih, a conservative northerner, and those of al-Bid, leader of the Yemen Socialist Party.

'Successive Victories' Reported

JN0905201594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1836 GMT 9 May 94

[Statement by "a responsible military source" at the Ministry of Defense and the General Command Staff; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Our valiant Armed Forces, the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy, today continued their successive victories and great advance toward accomplishing their missions on all axes and directions where the battles are raging against the forces of apostasy and secession rebelling against the constitutional legitimacy in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP].

With success from God and with broad popular support in the governorates of Aden, Lahij, and Abyan and other governorates of the Republic, and also with the resolve of the sincere men of our valiant Armed Forces' heroes, great victories were achieved today. The forces of the al-'Amaliqah Brigade, the 2d Armored Brigade, and the 8th Special Forces Brigade managed to accomplish their combat missions successfully.

Today, the al-'Amaliqah forces destroyed the Madram Brigade and seized all its equipment. The Brigade's chiefs of staff surrendered, and its commander fled. A large number of officers and soldiers from the Madram Brigade and the 5th Armored Brigade joined the forces of the constitutional legitimacy. These brigades are still waging decisive heroic battles against the remnants of the secessionist forces of apostasy.

Also today, the forces of the 56th Brigade managed with great success to storm the defensive fortifications of the forces of apostasy and secession. The vanguards of these forces arrived in the area of Dar Sa'd, close to the Shaykh 'Uthman neighborhood, one of the outskirts of the governorate of Aden. They also closed the way to the supplies heading for the camps of the misled ones who are dominated by the forces of apostasy and secession in the governorate of Lahij.

Our valiant forces are now continuing to wage a heroic battle against the forces of the Salah-al-Din camp, which are being misled by the rebellious secessionist gang, in order to force them into surrendering and yielding to both the people's will and legitimacy. This force is currently in the throes of death before the courageous heroic blows dealt by the heroes of our Armed Forces who continue to chase the remaining dens of the elements of the rebellious secessionist gang.

On the southern axis, our courageous Armed Forces, the forces of the constitutional legitimacy, managed to storm and capture the third fortified defense line of the forces of the al-Buzah Brigade, and continued their advance to other fortifications. Today, Monday, 250 personnel of the al-Buzah Brigade surrendered with their full weapons and equipment, and declared that they joined the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy.

Large quantities of weapons, equipment, and vehicles were seized, including eight tanks and a number of guns and armored vehicles. Our forces are currently chasing the fleeing remnants of the secessionist forces of apostasy in that area.

Also in the governorate of Lahij, the heroes of the 2d Armored Brigade continued to advance steadily and accomplish their combat missions successfully in terms of combing the district of al-Dali' for the remnants of the forces of apostasy and rebellion. Large numbers from the 'Abbud Brigade in the district of al-Dali' joined the forces of unity and legitimacy.

During the combing campaigns being carried out along the collapsing positions of the forces of apostasy and secession, our forces found huge quantities of Marxist and Leninist books, through which the YSP was trying to obliterate the national identity and to distort the thought of the sons of our Yemeni people, and to psychologically and ideologically indoctrinate the fighters of the military units that used to be under its control.

The heroic al-Wahdah infantry, artillery, and armored brigades, today continued to wage battles of bravery and honor in defense of unity and legitimacy.

In another development, our valiant Armed Forces' Air Force today, continued its successful air attacks, during which it has successfully bombarded the set targets. Our aircraft returned safely to base.

The antiaircraft defenses today downed an aircraft belonging to the secessionist gang near the city of Mudiyah in the Abyan Governorate.

The source hailed the splendid and heroic performance of the personnel of our valiant Armed Forces and their great triumph for the will of the people and their option for unity, democracy, and the defense of their constitutional institutions.

The source also lauded the high national morale, enthusiasm, and commitment to the national responsibility

expressed by the masses of our Yemeni people against the secessionist gang, and their support for their sons in the valiant Armed Forces.

It congratulated our people on the great victories over the secessionist gang, stressing that the victories that have been achieved over the gang of fragmentation, apostasy, and secession, are attributed to God's grace, and are the fruit of the steadfastness of the masses of our Yemeni people, their support for the forces of Yemeni unity and constitutional legitimacy, and their confrontation of the plans to dismember and destroy the homeland.

The source said that the losses among the ranks of our valiant Armed Forces as a result of the fighting that has been raging against the forces of apostasy and secession since these forces ignited the fire of war last Wednesday and until now have reached 74 martyrs, and 314 wounded, in addition to 17 civilian martyrs as a result of the treacherous aggression of the forces of apostasy and secession. There was no immediate count available of the number of the martyrs and the wounded personnel of the Central Security, who were betrayed by the forces of apostasy and secession in Aden, who attacked their camp on the sad and bloody day of Wednesday.

Up until the time this statement was being prepared, our valiant Armed Forces, have managed, on all axes of the fighting, to inflict heavy defeats on the forces of apostasy and secession, and to seize huge quantities of weapons, equipment, and serviceable vehicles. Large numbers of the troops who were misled by the rebelling secessionist gang have also joined the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy, renewing their allegiance to the legitimacy, the constitutional institutions, and to the one Yemeni homeland, the homeland of freedom, justice, democracy, progress, and prosperity.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If you will aid the cause of God, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

Sanaa Claims South Brigade Destroyed

JN1005050594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 10 May 94

[Statement by "a military spokesman" at the Ministry of Defense and General Command Staff; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Subsequent to our statement yesterday, with success granted by God, and with the courage of the brave men in our valiant Armed Forces—the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy—our valiant Armed Forces in the southwestern sector last night completely destroyed the units of the (?Labudhah) Brigade camp and all of its fortifications and seized what remained of its weapons and equipment. A tank battalion and a BMP [Infantry Fighting Vehicle] company surrendered and joined the forces of constitutional legitimacy and the protection of Yemeni unity.

During the fierce battles on that axis, the aircraft of the rebellious secessionist gang made futile suicidal raids on our combat units and the city of al-Rahidah. The valiant anti-aircraft units confronted them and forced them to flee after downing two Sukhoi aircraft.

The heroic men in our glorious Armed Forces are continuing their heroic acts and destroying the dens and fortresses of the forces of apostasy and secession, so the homeland of September and October will remain glorious and united with its constitutional agencies and its legitimate leadership, and with the cohesion of all members of the society in this glorious trench, the trench of freedom and justice, the trench of unity, democracy, progress, and prosperity.

Ministry Official Interviewed on Military Situation

JN0905123294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 May 94 p 29

[Report by Amjad Mu'alla]

[Text] A senior Yemeni official has accused foreign quarters of interfering in Yemeni affairs in an attempt to strike at Yemeni unity and kindle the fires of sedition by supplying the warring factions with weapons and encouraging fighting. He appealed to the political forces in Aden and the Governorate of Lahij, stronghold of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], to move in order to decisively settle matters in favor of the Armed Forces. He stressed that the current fighting is an internal affair and there is no room for foreign mediation.

Reached by telephone in Sanaa, Mazhar al-Taqiy, undersecretary of the Yemeni Information Ministry, told AL-DUSTUR that large quantities of weapons were seized at sea and airports. He added that the Yemeni authorities confiscated military communications equipment, bugging devices, and certain missile batteries aboard a Boeing 707 about one month ago. Everything was purchased from a British company and the plane belonged to an Ugandan airline company. He said large quantities of light weapons were found and confiscated from the Yemeni Socialist Party headquarters in Sanaa in the last few days.

Al-Taqiy questioned the YSP motives behind the possession of these quantities of weapons and said no state can allow a local party to import weapons for itself or form its own army and militias. He said that importing weapons in such quantities clearly indicates that foreign quarters do not want to see unity or democracy in Yemen as these act like an earthquake to foreign forces.

Regarding the latest developments in Yemen, al-Taqiy said the Armed Forces are on their way to end what he termed a rebellion led by an adventurous group in the YSP leadership. He added that the Armed Forces, which represent the constitutional legitimacy and belong to the various governorates in the Republic, are 15 km from the city of Aden and will enter and take control of it.

Mazhar al-Taqiy added that yesterday a large number of the forces that had been stationed in the southeastern Sunaywah [name as transliterated]. Governorate joined the Yemeni Army, bringing their equipment and weapons.

Al-Taqiy said Yemen still rejects mediation to stop the fighting, citing the statements of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the House of Representatives on 7 May, deeming the situation in Yemen an internal affair.

The Yemeni Information Ministry under secretary cited President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's assertion that unity will not be abandoned, whatever the cost, and that the rebellious leadership in the YSP should surrender to the legitimate authority.

He said: We expect the unionists in the YSP and other Aden residents to take control of the situation, arrest the rebels and hand them over to the legitimate authority.

Answering a question as to whether there have been attempts by some Arab parties to mediate, al-Taqiy said: "Mediation between whom? What is happening now is that a group that has defied constitutional legitimacy has ignited a war in several regions in Yemen. We ask any side that wants to mediate if it would accept mediation if one of its parties were to ignite an internal war."

He added: We think that this is purely an internal affair and that the rebels should respect constitutional legitimacy and the state institutions established in accordance with the elections on 27 April 1993. They should submit to legitimacy, and then everything will return to the way it was before.

While observing the developments in fraternal Yemen, AL-DUSTUR has also tried to contact Yemeni officials in Aden. However, they could not be reached because telephone links with Aden have been cut.

14th Brigade Commanders Pledge Loyalty to Salih

JN1005045694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 10 May 94

[Message from commanders of the 14th Infantry Brigade to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces; esteemed brother Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Malik al-Sayyani, chief of staff of the Yemeni Armed Forces. On behalf of the commanders, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the 14th Infantry Brigade, we send to you our warmest greetings, wishing you success in extricating the homeland from the ordeal imposed on it. We stress to you our adherence to Yemeni unity as an absolutely irrevocable decision and our adherence to our legitimate leadership. We consider the 14th Brigade a part of the Armed Forces defending unity, legitimacy, and democracy.

May you be preserved as an asset for the revolution and the homeland.

[Signed] Your brothers: Staff Colonel 'Abdallah al-Khadr Sa'id; commander of the brigade; Colonel 'Abd-al-Hakim 'Abdallah Ahmad, deputy commander for supply affairs; Lieutenant 'Abdal-al-Karim Miqbil, political staff officer

Southern Forces' Activity, Situation Reported

Planes Reportedly Attack Ta'izz Positions

NC1005101994 Paris AFP in English 0946 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 10 (AFP)—Southern Yemeni air force jets attacked rival army positions north of Aden on Tuesday [10 May], witnesses in the area said.

The witnesses, contacted by telephone did not give details of casualties or damage in the raids in the Ta'izz region, some 150 kilometres (93 miles) northwest of the key southern stronghold of Aden.

Southern officials said their troops had pushed back an offensive on the port city, formerly the capital of South Yemen.

On Monday a northern military spokesman in Sanaa said southern units were in retreat toward Aden, and troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih had reached Darb al-'Amr, just five kilometres (three miles) from the city, having broken through the last southern defences.

But Aden residents said the city was calm with no sign of battle on the outskirts.

A resident of Sanaa meanwhile said families were leaving the capital in large numbers, bound for villages or the mountains.

Southern forces fired two Scud missiles at Sanaa Monday.

Radio on Continued Successful Defense of Aden

EA0905204194 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Our forces, defending unity, democracy, and modernization, have continued their heroic resistance and constitutional steadfastness against the forces of the adventurist gang of the al-Ahmar clan, who are continuing their artillery and rocket barrage and engaging in successive attacks on the former eastern border areas, these being Ga'tabah, al-Dali, al-Rahidah, Karish, al-Bayda and Mukayras. The forces of the bloody military gang of al-Ahmar have continued to direct artillery,

rocket, and aircraft fire on al-Dali and the villages around it, and to confront our forces, who are supported by the citizenry.

For the ninth time, units from the Republican Guards, the central security forces, the 8th Independent Armored Brigade, and the al-Hamzah Brigade have attacked, in an attempt to break through the our forces' defensive positions—they were repulsed and sent back to where they came from. Members of these units surrendered and joined our forces, having realized the falsity of the slogans concerning the defense of constitutionality and unity being prattled by the influential al-Ahmar gang in Sanaa.

In Qa'tabah and Karish, our heroic defending forces repulsed the forces of the gang of the al-Ahmar clan, which had continued its efforts to break through our forces' defensive positions, directing intensive artillery and rocket fire against the villages and houses of innocent civilians. This was an attempt to erode the high morale characterizing the heroic defenders and the masses of the people of Karish, known for their outstanding role in the struggle during all stages of the revolution, and in the defense of unity.

In the capital of Abyan Governorate, units from the Amaliqah forces have suffered repeated defeats and have surrendered, with many of their men joining the ranks of our forces. Our forces, after reinforcing the encirclement of their positions, succeeded in storming their positions, even after they sought shelter in the houses, schools, and fields of citizens. At noon today the commanding officer of the 54th Battalion of the Amaliqah forces, Colonel Ahmad Salim al-Nahmi, surrendered, together with what was left of the officers and men of his battalion. They joined the ranks of our forces which, supported by the sons of Zinjibar, Ji'ar, and the surrounding villages, are continuing their operations to take full control of the situation in this governorate.

Southern Forces Said 'Gradually Taking Control'

LD0905222594 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 May 94

[Excerpts] The South Yemen leaders announced today that the southern forces totally crushed the northern al-'Amaliqah Brigade during its advance toward Aden.

Aden radio announced in a statement broadcast today that the members of the al-'Amaliqah brigade are fleeing like frightened cats, as the radio put it, and that the southern forces are gradually taking control of the situation.

[Aden correspondent Ayhab 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali] Fighting has continued until the time of compiling this report, while the rest of the al-'Amaliqah forces, which are the forces stationed at the Abyan-Minzu-1990-Unity [as heard] area 40 miles to the east of Aden [sentence as heard]. These forces were joined yesterday by the remaining part of the (Kibsi) brigade, the second armored corps belonging to Sanaa. These forces fled the al-Rahah region in neighboring Lahad province following their defeat. All sorts of weapons are being used in this fierce battle. The troops of Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid are pursuing these forces, which are fleeing toward the west.

In Lahad province in the north of Aden, President Salih's forces made an attempt to invade Kirsh village which is on the former border between the north and the south. Aden troops resisted these forces and made considerable progress.

Observers here agree on the superiority of the southern forces in Abyan and Lahad. Aircraft are playing a big role in this battle. Observers note that the forces retreating from Abyan and Lahad are doing so slowly, in the hope that help will reach them from Sanaa. The al-'Amaliqah battalion retreating from Abyan is in a tragic situation. It has fallen into a trap between the forces coming from Aden and those belonging the 30th brigade which came from Hadramawt. [passage omitted]

It is noted here that many of those who have surrendered from the northern army are soldiers, [word indistinct], and officers from the governorates of 'Ib, Ta'iz, al-Bayda', and other areas. They preferred to surrender because of the hardship they suffered at the hands of their commanders; as Lieutenant Mustafa Haris said, they were being treated like third-class citizens. Eyewitnesses coming from Lahad governorate said that forces of Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid were able to repell an attack launched against al-Dhala', which is 96 miles north of Aden. This took place after forces from Lahad, north of Aden, joined the troops of the 'Abud brigade stationed in al-Dhala. These forces have since yesterday midday moved to offensive positions. With the fierce fighting and battles, Sanaa's forces have lost control and carried out random shelling of al-Dhala, the capital of al-Mudiriyyah. This shelling involving the use of missiles resulted in damage to many of the villages near al-Dhala, such as Hajaf, al-Shu'ayb, Jabal Harir, Khuwayr, and others.

For the second consecutive day, life in Aden is normal. An under secretary at the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform has inspected work at some institutions which are directly linked to the life of the citizens. The only thing that upset the normal course of life was an attempt by a military plane at 2015 to enter Aden airspace; the plane, however, had to flee as a result of intense gunfire and was not able to drop its load on vital installations in Aden.

Well-informed political sources in Aden have disclosed that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is experiencing internal problems in Sanaa following the losses incurred by his military forces and their collapse after the blows they received from the Armed Forces in Aden.

Aden Denies Sanaa Forces Reach Dar-Sa'd

LD0905224694 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2045 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Defense Ministry has denied reports put out by the media of the bloody al-Ahmar clan, reports which have been repeated by the news agencies and radios, to the effect that the forces of the al-Ahmar gang have reached the Dar-Sa'd area in Aden governorate.

In a statement for the Yemeni news agency, SABA, the source said these reports were totally untrue. Dar-Sa'd town is tranquil and under the total control of the forces of national alignment, unity and democracy.

Moreover, the battles are taking place in the areas of al-Dali, Karish, and Mukayras, which are hundreds of kilometers from Aden. The source stated that the forces of unity and democracy are winning victories on all battle fronts, seizing advanced positions and routing the forces of the oppressive al-Ahmar gang.

The source said putting out such reports reveals the state of confusion and hysteria afflicting the forces of the gang of the al-Ahmar clan, who in their sick dreams are hiding the truth to obfuscate the successive defeats they are suffering by turning them into imaginary victories.

Radio Reports Lahij Governorate Secure

EA0905191494 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The security director in Lahij Governorate has stressed that security and stability have been restored in that governate's districts, and that daily activities are proceeding normally in all workplaces and businesses. Colonel Husayn Qahtan, the governorate's security director, said in a statement for the Yemeni news agency, SABA', that workers in all public, private, and mixed enterprises were proceeding normally with their jobs in their various sectors. He said the supply situation in all districts was stable, and that the citizens were able to move about smoothly and safely.

He denied all the distorted reports being put out by the secessionist al-Ahmar clan concerning the situation in Lahij Governorate, in a desperate attempt to mislead local and foreign public opinion and to obfuscate the defeats it has suffered at the hands of the forces of unity and national alignment—and at the hands of the heroic sons of the governorate. He discussed the stupid acts being perpetrated by the remnants of gangs from the secessionist al-Ahmar clan, who are shelling the villages in the governorate's districts, causing heavy losses in life and property to the peaceful inhabitants. He praised the sincere humanitarian efforts being made by doctors and health workers at the Ibn Khaldun Hospital in treating wounded children, women, and old men who had been directly targeted by the vanquished gangs of the bloody al-Ahmar family.

Port Reportedly Functioning Normally

EA0905192194 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Brother Muhammad Bin-Muhammad Shakir, the acting director general of the port of Aden, has stated that operations at the port have been uninterrupted and are proceeding normally. In a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', he referred to reports put out by a number of news agencies, to the effect that the port had been closed. He said that the port's operations had been proceeding normally without interruption, noting that the port was open to international navigation and was providing full services to all ships reaching it from other ports. Brother Muhammad Bin-Muhammad Shakir went on to say that a number of ships carrying various types of cargo were outside the port, and were awaiting their turn to enter the port when other ships had completed discharging their cargoes.

Aden Accuses Sudan of Helping Northern Forces

EA0905204594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Informed political sources in Aden have discovered evidence showing the participation of Arab states in the fighting currently taking place in Yemen, which was sparked off by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the gang of the al-Ahmar clan. The Yemeni news agency, SABA', was informed by those sources that there are soldiers involved in the fighting within the ranks of units of the al-Ahmar mercenary gang, in coordination with the governments of the countries they belong to. The sources said that among these countries is Sudan, which is ruled by General 'Umar al-Bashir. Accordingly, Sudanese airports have been made available as assembly points for the military aircraft of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the gang of the al-Ahmar clan to take off from and carry out military operations against al-Hudaydah Airport.

These sources connected the position taken by 'Ali Abdallah Salih before the [word indistinct] parliament toward the call by the Arab League for the fighting in Yemen to stop, a stance that was the same as Sudan's, which considered the call by the Arab League as interference in Yemen's internal affairs. The sources went on to say that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is currently facing internal problems in Sanaa, arising from the losses incurred by his armed forces and their defeat due to the blows they received from the heroic armed forces representing national accord, unity, and democracy.

Al-Bid Interviewed on Fighting, Vows To 'Hold Out'

NC1005074594 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 May 94

[Telephone interview with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, in Aden, by MBC correspondent Ahmad Manjuna on 9 May—recorded]

[Text] [Manjuna] Can Yemen endure the ongoing fighting developing into a protracted war of attrition?

[Al-Bid] We want to implement the Pledge and Accord Document. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his forces reject this. Failing to implement the document, they resorted to war to impose another course on the Yemeni people. We will all abide by the document around which the overwhelming majority of the Yemeni people rally. Even those who have been forcibly sent to the war by 'Abdallah Salih are now fighting with low morale because they are not convinced about what they are doing. They do not know what they are doing. What are their objectives when they advance toward particular areas in the southern provinces?

[Manjuna] Brother 'Ali: How can you describe the military situation? And how can you hold out?

[Al-Bid] We will hold out. But we are convinced that whoever triumphs in this war will still be a loser. But what can we do? As long as this war is imposed on us we will defend ourselves and we will adhere to the course we have chosen. We have chosen the road of unity, democracy, civil rule, and equality. We also chose the Pledge and Accord Document on the basis of national unanimity. We will adhere to this document and we will fight to ensure that it is implemented.

[Manjuna] Despite the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document, the government in Sanaa accuses the southerners of secession and mutiny. On what grounds does the government in Sanaa base its accusations?

[Al-Bid] This is their understanding of issues and it shows their miscalculations. We opted for unity. We dissolved our regime here in the south and we took our units from here to Sanaa. Regrettably, they were besieged and attacked in Sanaa. We did not do all this. The Yemeni people know this. History will be the judge.

Conflicting Claims on Fighting, Mediation Cited

PM0905172594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by 'Abdallah Hammudah, Lutfi Shatarah, Naji al-Harazi, Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq, and Salwa al-Ustuwani: "War of Conflicting Statements in Yemen"]

[Excerpts] London, Sanaa, Abu-Dhabi, Damascus, Aden—Many questions have been asked in Arab and foreign diplomatic circles about Sanaa's sudden decision yesterday accepting Arab League mediation. Some interpreted the fact that Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah yesterday contacted Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid as perhaps an indication of a new understanding of the difficulty of settling the Yemeni crisis by military means, or a desire to "avoid Arab isolation" and to avoid charges of "arrogance of power" being made against the leadership in Sanaa. [passage omitted]

On the military front, the fighting has continued between the two sides. Sanaa sources said that north Yemeni forces have occupied al-'Anad airbase and opened al-Dali' road to Aden, which they expected to fall soon. The northern command was so confident yesterday that it transported a number of correspondents, including an AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT correspondent, to a point the sources said was "nearest to Aden." Probably in the area of al-'Alam or Dar Sa'd, but there has been no confirmation of that.

Commenting on that, a highly placed Socialist Party [YSP] source said that that was part of the media campaign aimed at weaking the morale of the southern forces. He wondered why Sanaa neglected to mention the battles against al-'Amaliqah units in the Abyan Governorate, where access to Aden is much easier than access through al-Dali' road in the Lahij Governorate.

The YSP source stressed that it would be impossible for the northern forces to reach Aden. He also denied that the al-'Anad airbase (in the Lahij Governorate) had fallen to these forces. He said the southern forces had secured the al-Dali' road after wiping out a northern battalion that was moving from Mukayris (in the north of the Abyan Governorate) to Lawdar (in the center) to reinforce al-'Amaliqah forces. He added that another battalion was destroyed as it tried to escape to al-Rahah area near al-Kabsi camp where remnants of the northern 2nd Armored Brigade are situated.

Another source said that southern forces deployed in the area between Karish and Mukayris captured a number of tanks and an entire infantry battalion and were advancing towards Ta'izz, and also that the artillery brigade in Yarim joined the Basuhayb Brigade and in doing so completely blocked the al-Dali' road in the face of the northern forces trying to advance on Aden. The source added that the situation in Aden was calm today and that employees have returned to their offices.

As far as fighting in the Abyan Governorate against al-'Amaliqah forces is concerned, southern sources said they expected the battles there to be decided today, now that the town of Zinjibar was under control with the northern units retreating towards al-'Urqub. [passage omitted]

The sources said that the delay in settling the situation in Abyan was due to the fact that the northern forces used Iraqi fighting expertise and used tactics unknown to the southern forces, such as withdrawing from an area after mining it and then storming it heavily after the entry of southern light forces (infantry and militia), and also due to the fact that low-flying aircraft were mistaken by the southerners for their own until they suddenly started to bomb them, which hampered the liquidation of al-'Amaliqah pockets there. [passage omitted]

Eyewitnesses in Aden yesterday saw 30 southern aircraft taking off in the direction of the positions of al-'Amaliqah in the Abyan Governorate. Western diplomats said that was going to be the "decisive battle to

expel the northern forces from the south." Southern sources say that an Eritrean pilot, an Iraqi pilot, and an Egyptian pilot from the extremist groups were being interrogated and will be shown to the Arab League delegation. Aden television showed a family of 11, five of them killed by indiscriminate northern shelling of al-Sharj. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Agrees To Receive Arab League Team

NC0905111494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—Ambassador Nayif Sa'ud al-Qadi, Jordan's permanent representative to the Arab League and chairman of the current Arab League Council emergency session on the Yemeni crisis, has denied media reports of differences between the Yemeni leadership and the Arab League Council regarding the convening of the emergency session to discuss an end to the recent fighting there.

He told MENA that in a telephone conversation with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Yemeni foreign minister welcomed the Arab League Council decision to continue its efforts and contacts to stop the fighting between the sons of the homeland. The Yemeni foreign minister's statement that the Yemeni crisis is an internal affair, as cited by news media, does not mean a rejection of the Arab League's help in ending the fighting, he said.

The ambassador said the Arab League is continuing its contacts with the Yemeni and Arab leaders in an attempt to stop the bloodshed. He said Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has agreed to receive a delegation from the Arab League Secretariat headed by Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, the assistant Arab League secretary general for military affairs.

Asked about reports that Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid had requested Jordanian mediation to stop the fighting, al-Qadi said he has no information about this. He noted that Jordan has continued to call on the Yemeni leaders to begin negotiations and renounce force as a means to solve differences. He pointed to Jordan's role in signing the Pledge and Accord Document, which he described as the best option of the Yemeni people to solve differences and preserve a unified Yemen.

The Jordanian ambassador hoped the brothers in Yemen will come to their senses and stop battles as soon as possible so that differences can be solved through dialogue and understanding.

Prime Minister's Contacts Declared 'Null and Void'

JN0905133494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The House of Representatives held a session this morning under the speakership of brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar and in the presence of Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah. The foreign minister explained to the House the actions taken by brother Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, on his medical and tourist trip, as well as his contacts and telephone conversations abroad with Arab and other officials. These contacts included the Arab League secretary general, the UN secretary general, certain Yemeni ambassadors, and our Arab League permanent representative. The foreign minister explained that al-'Attas exploited his position as prime minister by holding these contacts and asking for an Arab League peace-keeping force, thus allowing for the violation of our national sovereignty and national independence, when what is taking place in our country is no more than a war against those who have rebelled against constitutional legitimacy and democracy.

The foreign minister added that the advent of foreign troops to our country would undermine the sovereignty and independence of the country. He indicated that brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas is exploiting his position as prime minister in a manner that does not serve the homeland as much as it serves a party faction. Moreover, our Arab League permanent representative has called for peacekeeping forces without obtaining the Council of Ministers' approval, but at the request of brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who has not received the approval of the Council of Ministers or the Foreign Ministry. Had our permanent representative believed in the homeland's interest, he would not have received his instructions from the prime minister, who is on a tourist trip abroad.

The brother foreign minister said the Arab League Council—thanks to our national, candid, clear, and firm stand—was satisfied with the adoption of a decision, whose most important point was the Arab League Council's reaffirmation of the statement it issued in March supporting Yemeni unity without reservation.

The House then discussed in detail the illegitimate foreign moves and activities of the brother prime minister, who is abroad on a medical trip. The House members approved the following House draft resolution:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Resolution by the House of Representatives:

During its session today, Monday, 29 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 9 May 1994, the House of Representatives discussed the moves and contacts made by brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, and the political activities accompanying them in his official capacity as prime minister although he traveled for medical purposes and was not assigned with any official mission by the Presidential Council or the Council of Ministers. Since his talks, contacts, and statements deal with domestic Yemeni affairs and violate Article 110 of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, which states that the role of the chairman of the Council of Ministers is confined to implementing the

Council of Ministers' decisions and the state's general policy in a coordinated and unified manner; and in view of what is entailed by these contacts and moves in terms of negative repercussions that are detrimental to the sovereignty, independence, and supreme interests of Yemen, the House has decided the following:

1. His contacts and statements are totally null and void due to their violation of constitutional legitimacy in accordance with Article 110 of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen. Moreover, any contacts or moves outside the framework of the constitutional institutions by any official or politician in the state are considered null and void and entail no legal commitment whatsoever.

2. The executive authority should implement the House resolution, communicate it to other states and international bodies and organizations, and adopt the necessary measures in accordance with the Constitution. May God grant us success.

Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Khalid Karman, minister of legal and House of Representatives affairs, attended today's session.

Salih Issues Decree, Dismisses Prime Minister

JN1005055594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 May 94

[Presidential Council Decree No. 11 issued on 9 May—read by announcer]

[Text] The chairman of the Presidential Council, cognizant of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen; in view Prime Minister Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas' actions, which violate constitutional legitimacy, and his abuse of office by exposing the homeland's sovereignty and independence to threats, such as his conduct that was discussed by the House of Representatives, which issued recommendations to the Executive Authority to adopt the necessary measures in accordance with the Constitution; and in view of the requirements of public interest and after the approval of the President Council, decrees the following:

Article I.

Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, shall be dismissed from his office and shall be referred to interrogation in accordance with Article 111 of the Republic of Yemen Constitution.

Article II.

This decree will be valid as of date of issue and will be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidency in Sanaa on 29 Dhu al-Qi'dah, 1414 of the hegira, 9 May 1994.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the President Council.

Al-'Attas Rejects Dismissal

EA1005094094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] A responsible source at the office of Council of Ministers Chairman Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has made a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA'. He said in the statement that there have been successive improvised and biased decisions from 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the latest of which is a decision announced through the Sanaa news media to suspend Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and to charge another person to carry out his duties. Earlier 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih issued a number of decisions suspending Defense Minister Haytham Qasim Tahir, Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, minister of oil and mineral resources, and Aden Governor Salih Munassar al-Syayli.

The source said this type of decision reflects the state of bewilderment experienced by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih after his ill-fated decision to drown Yemen in a bloody war. He pointed out that these decisions not only contradict the Constitution which he trampled under foot when he declared the war, but also reflect the psychology of defeat which has controlled his mind following the setbacks suffered by the forces of his gang in more than one military position. He is now trying to patch up his shaky position before those he promised to occupy Aden within a few hours.

The source confirmed that these decisions have been rejected in their entirety because they violate the Constitution and go against it. He clarified that confidence in the prime minister can only be withdrawn by the house of deputies. The ministers cannot be dismissed except publicly and with the prime minister's consent. When this occurs or when the prime minister resigns himself, the entire Council of Ministers must be considered as having resigned.

The source wondered: What can we expect from the man who ignited the war, the strife, and the civil war? What can we expect from the man who directs his guns against the citizens and children and stabs at the very heart of unity? What can we expect other than these stupid decisions through which he is implementing his secessionist goals.

The source ridiculed such decisions and said they have no impact whatsoever after the war decision adopted by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He pointed out that these decisions are additions to the declaration of war by means of which he announced the liquidation of unity and the liquidation of everything that would remind him of it.

The source concluded by saying that all the decisions issued by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih are constitutionally invalid and are (?capricious) and unrecognized. He said that the theatrical farce being implemented by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his gang after the war decision cannot fool anybody, particularly as he cancelled the legitimacy of unity and adopted a secessionist decision by declaring

war on 27 April. It is a decision he will not be permitted to achieve because unity is the will of the people, and they will defend it to the last breath of life.

Salih Appoints Al-'Attar Acting Prime Minister

JN1005055094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 May 94

[Presidential Council Decree No. 12 issued on 9 May—read by announcer]

[Text] The chairman of the Presidential Council, cognizant of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen; in view of the dismissal of Prime Minister Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas', and in view of the requirements of public interest and after the approval of the President Council, decrees the following:

Article I.

Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, will be charged with the duties of the prime minister.

Article II.

This decree will be valid as of date of issue and will be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidency in Sanaa on 29 Dhu al-Qi'dah, 1414 of the hegira, 9 May 1994.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the President Council

Al-'Attas Calls For Dialogue, End to War

NC1005065294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 10 May 94

[Telephone interview with "Prime Minister" Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, in Washington, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Engineer al-'Attas: How do you view developments in Yemen?

[Al-'Attas] It is regrettable to see such events taking place in Yemen. It is a war among brothers. Since the start of the political crisis last year, we have repeatedly warned against these events. We would like to emphasize that war is not the proper option or the suitable way to remedy problems. War will settle no issue; it will only spell destruction for the Yemeni people, which will affect every citizen. During the political dialogue, there has been an agreement in principle to define the main points of consensus, not to resort to violence or take up arms to tackle the existing problems, and to adopt political and democratic dialogue as an alternative. Unfortunately, and despite the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document, the brothers in Sanaa, particularly the leadership represented by the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Reform Party, have persistently prevaricated over this issue and avoided implementing the Pledge and Accord Document. Instead, they opted for military confrontation as an alternative to the political and democratic dialogue. To enter a war is difficult. To get out of it is even more difficult. War could break out because of a thoughtless and hasty decision. But it is very difficult to get out of it. The situation cannot be decided militarily. There is indiscriminate bombardment by the brothers in Sanaa. Perhaps you have seen on television villages, children, and women being hit. I believe that serious action must be taken to end the war and resume the dialogue to tackle the problems facing Yemen.

[Al-Jundi] Engineer al-'Attas: Both sides, in the North and South, have repeatedly voiced their support for Yemen's unity and vowed not to give it up. Is the ongoing war between the northern and southern troops for the sake of unity or is it a war to end the unity?

[Al-'Attas] No war could be for the sake of unity. Military action is always against unity, because it results in rifts and problems and influences the political and moral elements that sway the feelings of the masses. Thus we have stated that any kind of military action is against unity and democratic practices. Nobody is thinking of seceding; this is not on the cards. The Pledge and Accord Document is the remedy that we have reached after an extensive political dialogue. The document remedies two basic points. The first is the current problems, particularly the military and security problems, and the second is the future of the regime and the state. But it is clear that there was rejection of this document from the day it was signed, despite the official signature on it and claims to the contrary. All actions prove that they are against it. They resorted to the military option by first striking at the 5th Brigade in the area of [name indistinct] in February immediately after the document was signed.

[Al-Jundi] Some observers say the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] started the political crisis in the first place, when Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid decided to stay in Aden. As a YSP official, how do you see the issue?

[Al-'Attas] This is not true. The crisis really started from the beginning of the unity, when the brothers in Sanaa disregarded the unity agreements, the small issues agreed upon to make this great Yemeni dream a reality. When these issues were ignored and the model of the Yemeni Arab Republic [North Yemen before unity] was imposed, the attempt to control everything and keep everything centralized in Sanaa. [sentence as heard].

[Al-Jundi] Some observers whisper that you, a prominent official in the YSP, were in Washington when the war started and that Salim Salih Muhammad, who is the YSP assistant secretary, was in London, that is, both of you were out of Yemen. Is there any significance in this?

[Al-'Attas] First, brother Salim Salih went on an official mission to Arab countries and then stopped over in London. More visits were scheduled on his program. He intends to follow the program. As for me, I travelled abroad for treatment for acute pain in my spinal cord,

which affected my right leg and hand. I attended the Cabinet meetings in Aden and in Ta'izz and took part in the meetings of the dialogue committee while suffering this extreme pain. Following the Ta'izz meetings, I left the country on 12 April, that is, before the crisis broke out. On 27 April, the brothers in Sanaa decided to initiate a military action when the president delivered a speech that day at the (?al-Sab'in) Square, giving the signal to start the war. The war started with a strike against the 3d Brigade, a southern brigade, in the area of 'Imran. This was followed by an attack against the Ba Suhayb Brigade in the area of (?Zamar). Despite the efforts we exerted within the Cabinet, at every meeting we faced problems obstructing the work of the Cabinet and preventing it from making any decision to implement the Pledge and Accord Document.

[Al-Jundi] After Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Yemeni Defense Minister Haytham Qasim Tahir's dismissal, do you intend to return to Sanaa or to Aden when you finish your medical treatment in Washington? Will you take up your job as Yemeni prime minister?

[Al-'Attas] First, the decisions made by parliament and the president are invalid, unlawful, and have absolutely no basis. This is because they disregarded the Pledge and Accord Document, which represents the core of national consensus, as well as everything else. Thus they are unconstitutional, invalid, and null and void. The Constitution gives no one the right to dismiss any person within the government. It gives parliament the right to withdraw confidence from the government. But this is not what parliament did.

[Al-Jundi] Parliament dismissed al-Bid.

[Al-'Attas] It had no right. There is nothing in the Constitution that says parliament is entitled to dismiss people. There is absolutely no clause in the Constitution that gives parliament the right to dismiss any member of the Presidential Council or government. Absolutely not. There is no such provision. These decisions are illegitimate and secessionist. They seek to consecrate the problem and the current military situation and to militarize the state, the machine the Pledge and Accord Document has tried to tackle. The document tried to build a modern and civic state, disengage the state and the military, and disengage the state and the tribes, so that a modern state could be established with equal rights given to all its citizens.

[Al-Jundi] We thank our guest Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al- 'Attas on the line with us from Washington, where he is receiving treatment. We thank him.

[Al-'Attas] Thank you very much.

President Salih Appoints New Defense Minister

JN1005062294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 May 94

[Presidential Council Decree No. 21 issued on 9 May—read by announcer]

[Text] The chairman of the Presidential Council, cognizant of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, and upon the recommendation of the acting prime minister, in view of the requirements of public interest, and after the approval of the President Council, decrees the following:

Article I.

Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi shall be appointed minister of defense.

Article II.

This decree will be valid as of date of issue and will be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidency in Sanaa on 29 Dhu al-Qi'dah, 1414 of the hegira, 9 May 1994.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the President Council
Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, acting prime minister

New Defense Minister Takes Oath

JN1005131794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Brother Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the minister of defense, today took the constitutional oath before brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, on his appointment as defense minister.

Salih Chairs Defense Ministry, General Staff Meeting

JN1005134294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today chaired a meeting of the Defense Ministry Command and the General Staff Command, in the presence of brother Yahya al-Mutawakkil, the minister of interior, and Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur, the minister of defense.

At the outset, the brother supreme commander of the Armed Forces congratulated brother struggler Brig. Gen. 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur on his appointment as defense minister of the Republic of Yemen. He stressed his confidence in the competence and capability of the brother, struggler, hero defense minister, in commanding the Armed Forces of the Republic of Yemen and consolidating its heroic role in defending the unity of the Yemeni homeland and crushing the remnants of apostasy and secession—those who have sold their conscience, lost the honor of belonging to their homeland, and been carried away behind their evil whims and ambitions, not caring about the consequences of their

acts, namely, sabotaging the homeland, depleting its forces, and destroying its resources, which were built by the sweat of the masses.

The brother chairman urged the commanders of military units and the personnel of the Defense Ministry Command and the General Staff Command to cooperate with the Defense Ministry and implement its orders, which aim at enhancing the heroic abilities of our Armed Forces—the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy—which are continuing to achieve successive victories, repulsing heroically and crushingly the remnants of apostasy, secession, and rebellion against legitimacy.

The brother chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces paid tribute to the efficiency and heroic, splendid performance of the noncommissioned officers, officers, and troops of our Armed Forces on all axes of fighting and national struggle in defense of the unity of the homeland and its pure soil.

The brother chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces pointed out the importance of coordinating efforts in an integral way with the agencies of the Interior Ministry. This is meant to enable these agencies to carry out their effective national role in maintaining the security and safety of the citizens, safeguarding public funds and property, and confronting any phenomena that seek to infringe on the citizen's safety and funds and any attempt to create disorder. He also urged these agencies to strike with an iron fist at any party that tries to tamper with the security of the homeland and to maintain the community's safety.

The brother struggler, Brig. Gen. 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur, the defense minister, thanked and appreciated the precious confidence of brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, asserting his faith in God and in the ability of the heroes of our Armed Forces to achieve the hopes pinned on them by their people in defending the unity of the homeland and defeating all the attempts of the gang of apostasy and secession and its schemes that aim at fragmenting and destroying the homeland. He stressed that our valiant Armed Forces will always remain the sword in the hand of the people and its constitutional institutions in the face of any party that tampers with the security and achievements of the homeland, primarily, unity and democracy.

New Defense Minister Meets With General Staff Chief

JN1005143094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Staff Brigadier General brother 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the defense minister, this morning convened a meeting at the ministry with Staff Brig. Gen. brother 'Abd-al-Malik al-Sayyani, chief of the General Staff; his deputies; the defense minister's advisers; and ministry department heads.

The chief of the General Staff began by congratulating brother Mansur Hadi on his appointment as defense minister and the trust placed in him by brother Lieutenant Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman and commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The chief of staff told the brother minister that he can count on the cooperation of everyone to advance national unity and constitutional legitimacy and to stand up to all forces of apostasy and secession who are out to plunge the Armed Forces into a bloody war to promote their despicable plans and sick dreams. Brig. Gen. al-Sayyani went on to emphasize that what the apostate separatists are after is to tear the united Yemen asunder and set it back to the pre-22 May, 1990 era.

The chief of staff declared that under the kind of decisive circumstances the homeland is going through now, the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff Command have ahead of them a formidable task. Granted, he said, ours is a demanding mission, but by our cooperation and boundless confidence in the capabilities of the brother minister, which we have come to know first-hand throughout his service, should make its achievement possible. Brig. Gen. al-Sayyani praised the defense minister's performance as commander of the al-Bayda' axis, where he and the military distinguished themselves in battle against the forces of apostasy and secession, and accomplished their mission with minimal losses.

The chief of staff stressed that the forces of unity and legality are following up on their successes in al-Bayda' and elsewhere with further gains against the treasonous and apostate gangs led by secessionists in the [Yemeni] Socialist Party. They are fulfilling their assignments with admirable proficiency in Abyan, al-Dali', Lahij, and Aden, and elsewhere on the battlefront.

For his part, Brig. Gen. 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi said he took pride in the confidence placed in him by Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He said he will extend every cooperation to his brothers at the General Staff Command and army commanders to translate this confidence into physical reality. The brother minister applauded the distinguished performance of the Armed Forces who, he said, are now engaged in fierce combat with the Socialist Party's gangs of apostasy and secession. He noted their remarkable steadfastness and successes in the field as they upheld the will of the people for unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy.

We are fighting a battle forced upon us by this tyrannical coterie against the wishes of the political and military echelons, who are anxious to spare the lives of the valiant military's personnel and the blood of the citizens of the united Yemen. We have no choice but to stand fast and fight on, the brother defense minister added. The forces of unity and legitimacy will soldier on and pound all the fortifications of the agent secessionists until, God willing, sure victory is attained.

Documents Said To Show Iraqi Involvement in Conflict

PM1005144494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 94 p2

[Interview with Dr. Abu-Bakr al-Saqqaf, professor of philosophy at Sanaa University and chairman of the Constituent Assembly of the Human Rights Committee, in Yemen, by Salah Qallab, in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Qallab] It has been claimed that the situation will be settled militarily in the near future with the northern forces taking control of the Aden axis. What is your information, as you have been following the situation closely?

[Al-Saqqaf] I doubt that the situation can be settled quickly because there is a relative balance of forces in equipment and number of fighters. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] Sanaa says that what is taking place is an internal affair and that is why it rejected the Arab League's initiative. What, in your view, is the aim?

[Al-Saqqaf] Actually, the 'Imran incidents had been escalated with the intention of liquidating and destroying the southern 3d Brigade and preventing continuation of the Egyptian-United Arab Emirates mediation which had reached practical steps toward easing the military and political crisis and paving the way for a gneral national reconciliation and a peaceful solution for the entire crisis. It is not true at all that the southern 3d Brigade which was in 'Imran, 60 km from Sanaa and isolated from the southern areas, was preparing to attack the capital, as the Presidential Council chairman claimed. [passage omitted]

It has been proved that the attack on the Basuhayb Brigade last Wednesday was a prelude to the bombing of Aden last Thursday (two days later). It is clear from all these developments that the war decision was made at the end of last year, in December to be specific.

There are documents indicating that all this took place in agreement with Saddam Husayn. The Yemenis noticed widespread presence of Iraqis in the Yemeni capital Sanaa in recent months. We have information that there is an Iraqi military advisory center in al-Hasbah area in Sanaa, supervised by a high-ranking Iraqi officer.

[Qallab] Do you mean that the Iraqis are participating directly in the current battles?

[Al-Saqqaf] Yes, and we have documents proving that they supervised the installation of missiles on the Munif mountain (in al-Hajariyah mountain range). Furthermore, anyone who closely examines the situation would see that the main feature of the regime in Sanaa is modelled after the way President Saddam Husayn Husayn structured his regime. [passage omitted]

YSP Reportedly Informs U.S. of Plans To Secede

JN0905113294 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 9 May 94 p 20

["Exclusive" report from Washington]

[Text] Informed U.S. sources have stated that the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has communicated to the U.S. Administration its desire to deal with this administration in the future and to coordinate policies with it vis-a-vis the Gulf and Middle East affairs in return for supporting YSP efforts to secede and restore its pre-unity status. The YSP also expressed its readiness to grant all oil prospecting concessions to U.S. companies.

The oral message conveyed by special envoy of 'Ali Salim al-Bid to a U.S. official said the YSP does not oppose U.S. interests and fully understands the U.S. policy in the region, particularly the two issues of peace with Israel and the siege on Iraq.

The YSP told the U.S. Administration it will use its Air Force in its battle with Sanaa and asked the administration not to misinterpret this step because it is part of the secessionist attempt which requires a military battle after which all attempts at reconciliation or pressure on the southerners to abandon their secessionist plan will subside.

In the past, the YSP has received large sums of foreign financial aid.

YSP Members Reportedly Detained

EA1005105594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] According to eye witness reports, many headquarters of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] in the governorates of Ta'izz, Ibb, Sanaa, Dhamar, Hajjah, Sa'dah, Mahwit, and al-Hudaydah have been taken over and converted to centers for detaining YSP members, other patriotic and democratic parties supporting it, and members of the gang of the al-Ahmar clan who support the pledge and accord document.

These reports further state that ambushes are being laid for YSP members who are heading for their party centers. They are deceived into entering the centers and are then detained. Reports by people coming from the northern governorates say that this same method is being used on members of other parties participating in the dialogue committee, outside the [word indistinct].

France: Evacuation of Foreign Nationals Completed

LD0905215194 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2030 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] With regard to the civil war in Yemen, the northern forces say they are about to take control of the former capital of the south, Aden. Most foreign nationals have now left the country. France led the operations

from Djibouti. The [French] Defense Ministry announced in Paris this evening that the evacuation of foreign nationals by air or sea was now over. A total of 1,456 people left Yemen over the last few days, including 214 French citizens.

Russia Outlines Contingency Plans for Evacuation

LD0805102594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0919 GMT 8 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 8 May—"We are making every effort to carry out, should the need arise, the rapid and organized evacuation from dangerous parts of Yemen of all Russian citizens working on contracts in that country," Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Africa and Near East Department of the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation told an ITAR-TASS correspondent in a telephone conversation. He said that 113 people had already arrived by plane in Moscow from Djibouti, which borders on Yemen, after being brought there on the French warship, Jules Verne.

The Russian Foreign Ministry, says the Russian diplomat, is in constant contact with its colleagues from France. Should the situation worsen in Aden in the south of the country, we have obtained the agreement of Paris to bring out as many Russians as possible from there on a warship which is due to approach the port of Aden in the near future. Our consul general in the town has been given exhaustive instructions in this regard. As for the country's capital, Sanaa, we have plans to bring Russians out overland to the port of Al Hudaydah where our ship the Khudozhnik Kustodiyev is waiting. Although Sanaa airport is, according to our information, besieged and the situation there is unsafe, the Russian leadership has allocated two passenger planes which are ready to fly out there for our people if the situation is permits.

Minister: Oil Sector Unaffected by Military Operations

LD1005110794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 10 May 94

[Excerpt] London, 10 May (KUNA)—In a press statement published here today, Yemeni Oil [and Mineral Resources] Minister Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun said that the oil sector has not yet been affected by the military operations and that the sector's activities of production and exports, and even refining, are continuing in a normal and usual way.

Bin-Husaynun added to the AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper that export operations are taking place at the same previous rates; however, he did not specify the size of exports. The Yemeni minister denied that foreign oil companies have evacuated their foreign employees. He pointed out that these companies know that oil regions are far away from military operations, though prolonging the war may affect the trust of foreign investors, particularly in the oil sector. [passage omitted]

Opposition Forces Capture Military Headquarters

LD0805122694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1024 GMT 8 May 94

[Excerpt] Tehran, 8 May (KUNA)—It has been mentioned here today that joint forces belonging to different factions of the Iraqi opposition captured the headquarters of the third border brigade of the 18th division and the headquarters of the first and third companies of the aforementioned brigade during a surprise attack launched from different directions last Friday [6 May].

A statement sent to KUNA today by the "holy warriors of the Islamic revolution" in Iraq, an organization based in al-Ahwar in southern Iraq, said forces belonging to Badr corps, which is the military wing of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, supported by forces of the "holy warriors" and men of the people's resistance, "launched the surprise attack from many directions on Friday evening" on the abovementioned headquarters and succeeded in controlling them after penetrating them.

The statement pointed out that the attacking forces managed in the early hours of their campaign to "completely attack" the regime's forces, killing and wounding tens of them. They also destroyed a number of tires [as received], apparatus, large quantities of weapons, and stacks of equipment.

The statement also pointed out that large quantities of weapons and equipment have been seized at the headquarters of the third border brigade and the headquarters of the first and third companies.

A subsequent statement announced that the opposition forces have repulsed a counterattack carried out by a company [indistinct word] on the forces, which captured the headquarters of the third brigade and its ancillary companies and burned three of their carriers, including their occupants, and killed whoever attempted to advance, while the rest escaped.

This is considered the largest joint attack launched by the opposition factions for a long time. Observers believe the participation of the forces of Badr corps, which belongs to the Supreme Assembly, in the attack offers an indication that Iran has given the green light for the launching of the attack against the forces of the Iraqi regime, where the aforementioned corps possesses tanks, missile launchers, armored vehicles, and artillery. [passage omitted]

Saddam Chairs Ba'th Party Iraq Command Meeting

JN0905171394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Leader Comrade Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has chaired a meeting for the Iraq command of the party.

Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, attended the meeting.

Saddam Allocates 5 Million Dinars for Poor Families

JN0905140394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 5 million dinars for poor families within the geographic area of the al-Rashid Branch Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Comrade Fadil Mashhadani, secretary of the al-Rashid Branch of the Ba'th Party, told an INA correspondent that this generous contribution on the part of leader President Saddam Husayn embodies his excellency's care for the sons of his people to ease their suffering as a result of the continuation of the unjust blockade.

He said the people's councils, in coordination with the party's agencies, have started distributing the president's contribution to poor families in al-Karradah, Baghdad al-Jadidah, al-Mashtal, al-Za'faraniyah, al-Mada'in, and al-Amin.

2 Million Dinars for Poor in al-Sulaymaniyah

JN0905140694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 2 million dinars for poor families in the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

The comrade secretary of the al-Sulaymaniyah Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party told an INA correspondent that leader President Saddam Husayn's generous contribution will be distributed to poor families to ease their suffering as a result of the continuation of the unjust blockade imposed on the unyielding Iraqi people.

Jericho Transfer Delayed; Gaza Police Chief Arrives

TA1005084194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The transfer of powers to the Palestinians in Jericho has been delayed to Thursday, 12 May. Members of the subcommittee on civilian affairs, headed by Ghassan al-Shak'ah and Amin Maqbul, are currently touring the city and the Civil Administration's offices. Al-Shak'ah told our correspondent Moti Amir that the transfer of powers and buildings to the Palestinians will not take place today due to the delay in the arrival of the Palestinian policemen. According to him, the policemen will arrive in Jericho tomorrow, and the transfer of powers will take place on Thursday. The overlap between Palestinian representatives and Civil Administration officials in Jericho has just begun.

Major General Amnon Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff, toured the Gaza Strip today to oversee the work of the liaison committees with the Palestinians. Maj. Gen. Shahaq also visited the joint PLO-IDF [Israel Defense Forces] office. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the Palestinian policemen scheduled to deploy in the Gaza Strip have not yet arrived at the Rafah terminal. They will apparently arrive later this evening.

Nasr Yusuf, the commander of the Palestinian police force, arrived in the Gaza Strip this morning. An AFP correspondent reports that Gen. Yusuf entered the autonomy area alone through the Rafah border crossing and drove to Gaza.

Policemen, Deportees Refused Entry

TA0905195994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 May 94

[Report by Amir Hay]

[Excerpts] Israel has notified the PLO that it will not permit the entry of some of the Badr brigade troops, due to deploy in Jericho, until it receives the names of the autonomy council members.

Meanwhile, Israel this afternoon barred seven deportees, who returned from Jordan, from entering through the Allenby Bridge. Only the father of the seven men was permitted to return to his village—al-Rummanah in the Janin District. Our correspondent in the territories Amir Hay reports:

[Begin Hay recording] [passage omitted] Some 300 members of the Badr brigade today arrived at the other side of the border, on their way to Jericho. Israel, however, announced today that they will be denied entry as long as it did not receive an autonomy council name list. [passage omitted]

In Hebron, the TIPH [Temporary International Presence in Hebron] members assumed their duties today. They patrolled Hebron and launched a telephone inquiry center for local residents. In the course of their patrols, they stumbled into violent clashes between locals and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. Four TIPH vehicles were damaged in stone throwing incidents. The riots had been organized by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists. [end recording]

Restrictions on Aviation Described

TA0805150394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar has stated that no arms will be allowed aboard the six planes to be used by the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The head of the Civil Aviation Administration made it clear that the security arrangements in the two airstrips in Gaza and Jericho will be similar to security arrangements in the Rafah and Allenby Bridge border terminals. The Palestinians will be allowed to use two helicopters and four light planes, including Yasir 'Arafat's plane, which will serve him in his flights between Gaza and Jericho. All the Palestinian aerial activity will be conducted under the supervision of the Israel Civil Aviation Administration, and the pilots will have to undergo a special test by this body.

Minister Qeysar, who toured the Jordan Valley settlements and the Bet She'an Valley region today, also said that the construction of the Jericho bypass road will cost approximately 200 million shekels. Minister Qeysar added that his office has already prepared detailed plans and maps toward the resumption of the land and sea link between Israel and Jordan after a peace agreement is signed between the two countries. He noted that Israel is interested in supplying Jordan with transport and commerce services via the ports of Haifa and Ashdod.

Rothschild on Difficulties of Self-Rule

TA0705105494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, believes the power struggle between the local leaders in the territories and the PLO-Tunis leadership will continue. In his opinion, the PLO will find operating the self-rule difficult unless it assigns the local leaders a greater role. The local leaders, he says, will continue supporting the peace process in any event and will not join the anti-'Arafat organizations.

Speaking to our correspondent, Gen. Rothschild said the Palestinians began by demanding that Israel leave them to manage their affairs on their own, but they soon realized that the task was very complex.

The true test of the agreement's implementation, in the coordinator's opinion, will be the extent of the population's satisfaction and the rate of improvement in every sphere of life. Unless such improvement is attained, the

strength of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the other opposition forces will rise.

As for the next phase of the Cairo agreements, Gen. Rothschild does not anticipate easy negotiations on the early Palestinian empowerment in the rest of Judaea and Samaria. The matter is complicated, because we will be discussing joint Israeli-Palestinian bodies, he said.

Sources: Shuttle No Substitute for Direct Talks

TA1005091494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 May 94 p A5

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben and Washington correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] Israel does not view U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's shuttle mission as a substitute for direct talks with Syria, either in the framework of the Washington talks or at a higher level, senior political sources stated yesterday. According to these sources, Israel regards the U.S. mediation as an auxiliary element of the negotiations aimed at settling matters of principle, but believes the details must be discussed directly by the sides. [passage omitted]

The senior political sources said that the gap between the Israeli and Syrian positions is very big and that detailed deliberations in working groups can only start after a framework for the negotiations has been determined. [passage omitted]

'Aqiva Eldar reports: The United States neither supports nor rejects the Israeli plan for an arrangement with Syria. Israeli and U.S. officials in Washington asserted yesterday that Secretary Christopher relayed the Israeli proposal to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad without adopting a position on it. Referring to the banner headline in HA'ARETZ yesterday ("The United States Has Reservations About the Israeli Proposal"), Israeli sources said they had been told by senior State Department officials that Christopher had neither rejected nor criticized the Israeli proposals.

Commentary Doubts U.S. Effectiveness

TA1005152794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 May 94 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Unconvincing Ability"]

[Text] The media thoroughly analyzed Yasir 'Arafat's body language when he refused to sign the maps appended to the Gaza- Jericho agreement. The whole world saw it. Nevertheless, diplomats were more interested in Warren Christopher's bland reaction. Nobody was surprised. In certain respects, the status of the U.S. representative at the Cairo ceremony was similar to that of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. Both their contributions to the agreement signed by Israel and the PLO were paltry.

Nobody in official Jerusalem is saying a word on the issue. On the contrary, Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres lavished praise on Christopher's objectivity. The man with the Indian features is considered one of the fairest statesmen Israel has had contact with since the Six-Day War. Beyond his personal attributes, however, how beneficial can he be in the Middle East arena?

There has been no dearth of U.S. blunders in the 27 years since Israel took over the territories in a defensive war and declared its willingness to return to the international border in the Sinai and the Golan taking its security needs into account. Nevertheless, William Quandt's 460-page book "The Peace Process" shows that the Israeli-Arab conflict constantly featured in U.S. foreign policy.

To wit, Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger saw to linking the Israeli-Arab conflict to the world's oil reserves, the Vietnam war, the detente with the USSR and the openness toward China, and what not. Jimmy Carter was almost obsessive in his efforts to bring about peace between Israel and Egypt in Camp David, although he was not the one who initiated the move. How many lines will be devoted to Christopher's actions on behalf of Bill Clinton?

There were years when Israel wished U.S. diplomacy would butt out, but that old pattern has long vanished. Assuming that 1994's Israel is interested in an active and spirited political process, the U.S. level of performance is disappointing to Jerusalem. After all, behind the smoke screen of flattery, Israeli experts gained the impression that Christopher did not fully grasp Hafiz al-Asad's sly intentions; that the Syrian president took the U.S. secretary for a ride; that he is actually unfit to steer the process upon his return to the region next week for a shuttle trip between Jerusalem and Damascus. What he brought back from his previous meeting with al-Asad aroused serious suspicions that he is unable to fully grasp the Syrians' true intentions, which the world must glean from hints and by reading between the lines.

Israel's unofficial disappointment with the U.S. ability to perform the Herculean task the Israeli-Syrian contacts will entail is not detached from the overall Clinton Administration's foreign policy. After the retreat in Somalia, the disgrace in Haiti, the capitulation in North Korea, and the fears in Bosnia, U.S. allies around the world are having a hard time trusting its diplomatic mettle. Al-Asad, who is not thrilled about peace with Israel anyway and merely wants to have Syria struck from the list of terror-supporting states, does not really care that such doubts come up.

Now, on the eve of the negotiations with Syria, Israel is clearly interested to monitor the actions of the U.S. diplomats who will be sent to the Middle East to carry out what they did with partial success in other areas around the globe. From Margaret Thatcher, America's loyal ally, going through the liberal commentator Anthony Lewis and the conservative Charles Krauthammer, the disappointment is sweeping and absolute.

Thatcher has already warned Clinton about the conclusions his allies will draw from his failure in Bosnia. Such an event does not go without leaving an imprint. Also, using the United Nations as an alibi for the failures is pathetic. Krauthammer wrote in TIME magazine that when it comes to foreign policy Clinton must think as a President and not make decisions based on an analysis of UN Security Council resolutions.

Israel has some experience of its own. Eytan Bentzur, the Foreign Ministry's assistant director general, sought to forge a link with North Korea which had been developing long-range missiles and avoiding international supervision of its nuclear facilities. The State Department dissuaded Israel from speaking on its own to North Korea, which had been developing a dangerous arms trade with Iran. The United States promised Israel to take action on the issue. How much weight does such a commitment carry in view of the recurring signs that Washington is not entirely averse to including Pyongyang in the nuclear club?

In the context of the Middle East, Washington promised not to have a repeat performance of the Madrid conference under joint U.S.- Russian auspices. Although it trusts Clinton's goodwill, Jerusalem cannot trust his ability to stick to his guns. This is only the beginning. Furthermore, although America's status in the international arena is an indisputable fact—even at a time when the man sitting in the White House is a President who is mostly engrossed in domestic policies—Christopher and his entourage must still earn a solid position vis-a-vis al-Asad to enable Rabin to deal with Syria through them. Can they do that? On the eve of the resumption of the talks on the Jerusalem-Damascus track, one cannot avoid hearing the whisper of doubts.

Efforts To Arrange Weizman-al-Shar' Meeting Reported

TA0805085494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 May 94 p 17

[Text] There are efforts to arrange a meeting between President 'Ezer Weizman and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', both of whom are due to arrive in South Africa today to attend Nelson Mandela's inauguration ceremony as president.

The Syrians have shown interest in a meeting, but have not made any commitment. President Weizman, who leaves for Johannesburg this morning by Air Force plane, will meet with a number of political figures, including PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, U.S. Vice President Al Gore, and perhaps Jordan's King Husayn, during his visit.

Decision Passed Not To Abrogate Golan Law

TA1005045094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] In deliberations conducted by the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry, it was decided not to abrogate the Golan Law because it relates to the residents of the area and not to the territory itself and because internal political problems will make its abrogation difficult.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due to return to the region next week to resume the negotiations between Israel and Syria.

Peres Denies Talks on Unresolved Issues To Stop

TA1005103694 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 May 94 p 4

[Report by Rami Shani]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding the security of the Qatif Bloc Jewish settlers, even though they are a very small group. The minister disclosed that the cost of the initial security arrangements will stand at approximately 30 million shekels, in addition to an annual outlay of 20 million shekels. As an example, he cited the need to build a security system, including a 7-km road to one of the settlements. "We are doing it to keep the agreement from collapsing," the minister noted. "The opponents of the agreement with the PLO are trying to scare and unnerve the residents of areas through which Arabs will drive," Peres said at a ceremony to mark the laying of the cornerstone for a new 'Amal technological college near Ashqelon. "It all depends on relationships, not security," the minister stressed. "There is no fence between Elat and al-'Aqabah, and relations there are excellent. Arabs live in Yafo, too. A new relationship must be created."

Peres denied rumors spread two days ago that Israel is not going to continue the talks with the PLO on the issues that remained unresolved when the Cairo agreement was signed. "Israel will adhere to its commitments," Peres stressed. With regard to foreign labor hired by Qatif farmers, the minister said it is preferable to employ Israeli laborers in agriculture.

Knesset Resolution Affirms Jerusalem United Forever

TA1005045694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Most Knesset factions voted last night in favor of a resolution stating that Jerusalem will forever remain a united city under Israeli sovereignty. The Knesset asserts that Israel will prevent any attempt to impair the city's status and territorial integrity. Jerusalem and its environs are not a political or a security issue but the very soul of the Jewish people, the Knesset resolution affirms. The resolution was initiated by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin endorsed it.

Ben-Ya'ir: Soldiers Must Obey Evacuation Orders

TA1005045894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] The attorney general says the refusal of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers to carry out any order to evacuate Jewish settlements in the territories would be an act of disobedience bordering on rebellion. In an address to the Editors Committee, Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir said: A soldier can disobey an order only if it is patently illegal. He said the issue of withdrawal from settlements was in dispute among jurists and, therefore, soldiers were duty-bound to obey such an order since it was not indisputably illegal.

Efforts To Establish Relations With Morocco Reported

TA0905065694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Israel and Morocco are currently holding contacts in a bid to establish diplomatic ties. Prime Minister Rabin may travel to Morocco in the next two weeks. Our political correspondent Udi Segal has the details:

Over the last few days contacts have been held between Israeli and Moroccan officials in a bid to open an Israeli-Moroccan liaison office in Morocco as a first stage toward the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. IDF Radio has learned that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin may travel to Morocco in the next two weeks in an attempt to facilitate these contacts. A senior political source said, at the same time, that so far the attempt to open the liaison office has not succeeded.

Prime Minister Rabin landed in Morocco for the first time on his way back from the Declaration of Principles [DOP] signing ceremony in Washington last September. At that time Rabin met the king of Morocco, and since then there has been a lot of talk about the establishment of relations between the two countries. So far, however, the Moroccans have prevented this. Since the DOP signing ceremony there have been ongoing contacts between Israel and Morocco, especially in the economic-business sphere. There was also talk about the possibility of a direct air link between Morocco and Israel. It is possible that Prime Minister Rabin intends to inaugurate such a link in the next few weeks, when he flies from Israel to Moroccan capital Rabat.

Rabin's Office Denies Plans To Visit

TA0905201094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Israel and Morocco are holding contacts over the possibility of establishing mutual bureaus of interests. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. The prime minister's office denies that Yitzhaq Rabin plans to travel to Morocco. The prime minister and the foreign minister had planned to leave for Morocco immediately after the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement in Cairo on 4 May, but the visit was canceled at the last moment. It now appears that only Mr. Peres will visit Morocco.

King Hassan Sends Message to Rabin

TA1005045494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Morocco's King Hassan has urged Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to pursue the peace process and expressed his belief that Israelis and Palestinians can coexist and create a new Middle East. These remarks are included in a message sent by the king to the prime minister via Knesset Member Rafi Edri, who visited Morocco last weekend.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Moroccan and Israeli representatives are currently discussing the establishment of economic representations in Jerusalem and Rabat, the opening of direct aviation routes, and the establishment of telephone and postal services between the two countries.

Labor's Future Cabinet Appointments Reviewed

TA0705175594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 29 Apr 94 p 7

[Article by Nehama Dowek: "Who Will Occupy Ramon's Chair?"]

[Text] Even before the Labor party has had sufficient time to recover from the divorce papers sent by Ramon, the boat is being rocked by a new storm, which is another ramification of the original move. Hayim Ramon's move did more than threaten the Labor's hegemony in the Histadrut; it left a vacant space at the top, a space that has to be filled, a space that causes great apprehension in the party. All triggers have been released, and some people are standing with live grenades in hand, waiting for the next move before deciding where they should be hurled.

As cabinet member, Ramon represented the party young generation's hunger for privileges and for a role in the making of momentous decisions. Ramon, who was 42 when he was first appointed minister, was the white hope of the young guard, for whom he was a model to be emulated. Now his place at the big table is vacant. The young party members are convinced that one of them should occupy it. The middle generation members believe it is time one of theirs joined the leading team. And Rabin? Apparently he has made no commitment to anyone. He listens to everyone, nods his head, and does whatever he pleases.

The prime minister's bureau has been a scene of pilgrimage in the past two weeks. 'Uzi Bar'am, Nisim Zvili, Avrum [Avraham] Burg, and Hagay Merom all met with him at their request. The list may have been longer. They all spoke of the need to appoint a young Labor minister. Rumor has it that Zvili actually prodded Rabin. Failure

to appoint a member of the young guard at once would be a mistake, he said. With Zvili as the initiator, the move needs to be thoroughly examined. Seasoned politicians explain that such a move will create facts on the ground, barring Ramon from returning to the government after the Histadrut [Labor Federation] elections. The occupied seat will signal to Ramon something along the lines of the famous adage that "graveyards are filled with people who thought they were indispensable...."

Rabin listened and nodded. The conversation, we are told, proceeded as follows:

Zvili: "If you are asking me, you should act quickly and get someone from the Ramon bunch into the government."

Rabin: "Who?" Zvili: "There is no shortage of candidates: Beilin, Burg, Merom. You have two vacant seats." Rabin: "Is that your suggestion?" Zvili: "Yes, it is."

Bar'am had a similar suggestion. Rabin remained uncommitted. In any event, he said, it is irrelevant until after the Histadrut elections.

Burg and Merom apparently asked to be placed at the forefront of the group vying for the vacated slot. Burg, who is working around the clock for the Histadrut election campaign in Jerusalem—he heads their public relations—this week released a statement to the press proposing to stay off the issue, because this is not the right time. However, at the end of the statement he mentions—supposedly by the way—that when they do get to discussing the issue, they should remember the results of the primaries. Explanation for the uninitiated: In the primaries, Avrum Burg made the third slot, right after Rabin and Peres. When Rabin was composing his cabinet, Burg considered himself a natural candidate for ministerial appointment. Rabin had a different opinion. Burg should mellow a bit, grow up a bit, he said. Burg, a Peres man who has never received real promotion from him, was offended, but continued running. Now he thinks it is time the IOU was paid.

Burg will be impeded by his recent announcement that he was competing for the job of the Jewish Agency chairman. He made frequent statements about how important and interesting the job was. Now he says: "Being a minister is still more interesting in these critical times. If I have to choose between the two, I would prefer to be minister. Yes, I believe the primaries results are consequential. If they decide to appoint Edri, they will find me there [not further specified]."

The key of coalition appointments stipulates one minister per three Knesset members [MK's]. The faction had 44 MK's and rated 15 ministers. Now, after Ramon's "secession," it rates only 14 ministers. But even now, it is two ministers short. Rabin still holds five portfolios: prime minister, defense, interior, religious affairs, and health. He is reserving the religious affairs and interior for SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. Defense is run by him and by Mordekhay Gur. That leaves him with the health portfolio, although another appointment is possible, particularly in view of the fact that some ministers have two portfolios. There is an opinion that since Rabin does not feel obligated to anyone, he may appoint an outside professional, thereby closing the affair.

If he does that, there will be backlash from party members. Justifiably, they are looking for appointments. Five MK's feel they deserve it, some more, some less: Yosi Beilin, Avrum Burg, Hagay Merom, Rafi Edri, and Efrayim Sne.

Beilin, the deputy foreign minister who has been doing an excellent job, does not like being presented as a candidate. He is happy, and he is not even certain that Peres will fight for him now, in view of the recent tension between them. On the other hand, he will not decline a ministerial appointment, if offered one. Even if it is the health portfolio. His appointment will depend on Peres. Rumors have it that Rabin does not like him, but he thinks very highly of him and is not ruling out his candidacy altogether. "No one has told me anything, and I do not think it is relevant at the moment," Beilin says.

Peres' position on the case of Burg is equally unclear. Peres is today a solitary cabinet minister, the sole member of his own camp, after Shahal, whose appointment Peres had warmly encouraged, has long ago wandered off in the direction of Rabin. As for Burg, it is being said that Peres had provided him with a springboard, but the moment his back was turned, Peres snatched away the pool.

Hagay Merom, a member of Kibbutz Yif'at which belongs to the United Kibbutzim Movement [UKM], once fought for a ministerial appointment, but Rabin preferred Tzur, although the latter had not been elected to the Knesset. Merom was offended, and a short while later, he attacked Rabin from the Knesset podium, calling on him to restrain the functionaries at the Prime Minister's Office. The prevailing opinion is that Rabin does not trust him, and in addition, he has no reason to appoint another UKM member.

Merom: "I do not take the various statements about me seriously, and I have no claims on a place around the cabinet table. I like it in the Knesset, and I like it in a situation where I am free to voice my views—even when they are against the government—without the constraints of ministerial responsibility. But, I appreciate my colleagues' thinking I should be minister."

Efrayim Sne, too, was once a Peres man. However, he quit at the last minute of the struggle between Peres and Rabin. I think Rabin is more suitable, he said then. Peres does neither forgive nor forget. Whenever Sne's name is mentioned for a possible government position—and it has been mentioned for a variety of jobs—Peres vetoes it. Perhaps this time Rabin will persist. Sne's training as a doctor could be to his credit when the candidate for the job of health minister is considered. Speculations are that given the choice between Beilin, Burg, Merom, and Sne Rabin will choose the latter. Incidentally, Sne met

Peres last week and asked him to withdraw his opposition to his inclusion in the government, either as a deputy minister or as a minister. Peres replied: "Why should you be appointed before Beilin or Burg?" Peres had a similar reply about Rafi Edri's candidacy.

Edri, a minister without portfolio in the unity government, walks around with a promise in his pocket from Rabin to appoint him as a minister. The promise was given to him before Ramon dropped his bombshell, when Edri finessed the resumption of relations with SHAS. Rabin had then planned to ask the Labor Central Committee to approve the return to the government of Ramon—who resigned due to the party convention's resolutions—along with the appointment of Edri as minister without portfolio. The double deal was meant to soften the blow for those who feel that the younger generation is not sufficiently represented.

Now, everything has changed. Rabin may not be able to make good on his promise to Edri, which some term "a solid promise that holds more than water." The problem could be solved if the prime minister had the guts to make the move he ought to make: "rid" the government of David Liba'i and Shim'on Shetrit, two law professors who get on his nerves. Then he would have three or four vacancies, which would enable him to appoint a few young men as ministers and be seen as a leader grooming Labor's next generation, as Begin and Shamir did in the Likud. However, Rabin is not built that way. He would rather leave people in the lurch and make them leave of their own volition. The point is, however, that Liba'i and Shetrit have no plans to go.

Under certain circumstances one might consider the possibility of Ramon himself returning to the government. However, such a scenario may only be examined after the Histadrut elections, and only if Ramon fails to head the largest faction. According to one scenario, under such conditions Ramon would transfer his votes to Labor in exchange for a seat around the government able. This will create a problem. Ramon was expelled from Labor, and if he is appointed minister he will no longer be able to run in the Knesset elections. People will say he already got his reward. On this point, Labor is holding him by the throat. Ramon's friends claim that he will return to Labor only through the front door; that is, if he wins the Histadrut elections and is appointed its secretary general. Then, however, Ramon will stay as secretary general and there will be a vacant seat around the government table.

Zvili: "The issue is not on the agenda. Everything will be dealt with after the Histadrut elections and SHAS' return to the coalition. I did not make any recommendations to the prime minister as to whom he should appoint. That is his call. I told him that as soon as he makes up his mind I will help him get his decision approved by all the party institutions."

Meanwhile, the expected appointments have become the hottest topic of conversation in the Knesset cafeteria. Everybody is stirring the pot, appointing, and making doomsday predictions. And what about Rabin? He is tensely awaiting the results of the Histadrut elections. He has put all the ingredients in the pot, and it remains to be seen whether Ramon will spoil his broth.

Columnist Criticizes Christopher Article on Iraq

JN0805094694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 May 94 p 26

["Headlines" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "Christopher's Article on Sanctions"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher published an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES on 29 April 1994 in which he attempted to justify the continuation of the inhuman sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people four years ago.

The secretary of state does not usually publish articles in the press. He may issue a statement, give a statement, or answer a question. It is also unusual for the secretary to send an article to a newspaper while he is conducting a difficult official mission and travelling between Middle Eastern capitals. The issue must have been more serious that it looks for the U.S. secretary to depart from tradition.

The meanings that can be deduced from the article do not depend much on its content, which was a repeat of the cliches we hear all the time: Iraq is not implementing the UN Security Council resolutions and the sanctions must continue. The more important meaning of the article is that the U.S. State Department has found itself in a position where it had to defend a racist policy rejected by the civilized world because it violates the most basic of human rights. Starting the article with a "Riyadh, Saudi Arabia" dateline is designed to suggest that the article is in response to an Arab demand.

The United States failed to give a clear answer to a specific question from Tariq 'Aziz: What measures is Iraq required to take to end the sanctions?

In fact, Iraq has complied with all the UN resolutions, although they were unfair. But the United States is not interested in seeing an implementation of the UN resolutions, which were never implemented by any country besides Iraq. Instead, the United States wants to change the ruling regime in Iraq and to impose on the Iraqi people other rulers of [Ahmad] al-Jalabi's type.

In his unconvincing defense of the continuation of the sanctions, Christopher admits they are causing real suffering for the Iraqi people. He, however, lays the blame on the Iraqi government's policy, as if the U.S. policy is not responsible for the continuation of the sanctions against the Iraqi people and for their elongation without any justified reason.

Thousands of the weakest segments of the Iraqi society are dying because of the U.S. sanctions. These are the children, the infants, the elderly, and the sick. Iraq's pharmacies are empty of insulin for diabetics and of medicine for people with chronic problems. Aspirin is also rare. Surgery in hospitals is limited because of the lack of anesthetics. All this is a crime against humanity, unparalleled even by Nazi crimes.

The continuation of the sanctions is purely an American decision. It does not infringe just on the rights of the Iraqi people, but also inflicts major damage on Turkey, Jordan, Europe, and Japan. It also offends anyone with a pan-Arab, humanitarian, and moral feeling. Trying to defend sanctions is even worse than the sanctions themselves.

U.S. 'Taking Their Own Time' in al-'Aqabah Talks

JN0805085994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 May 94 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Jordan, American, U.N. and Lloyds Register representatives are holding talks in New York on the modalities of a proposed land-based regime at al-'Aqabah to verify adherence to the international sanctions against Iraq, official and other sources said Saturday [7 May].

Although Washington has accepted the Jordanian proposal that Lloyds Register take charge of the verifications, several key issues remain to be agreed upon before the arrangement could go into place at al-'Aqabah, according to the sources.

"For some reason or the other, the Americans are taking their own time even on issues that need very little clarification," said one source. "At this rate, it could be several weeks if not months before a final agreement is reached."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced the American acceptance of the proposal, subject to "finetuning," after a meeting with His Majesty King Husayn in London on April 25.

Prime Minister Abd al-Salam al-Majali said last week that the U.S.-led naval force patrolling the Red Sea had not intercepted and delayed any al-'Aqabah-bound vessel after the King's meeting with Mr. Christopher.

But, Dr. al-Majali said, this did not mean that the interceptions had stopped. He added that no progress had been made in having the onshore verifications regime in place at al-'Aqabah.

France announced last week that it was withdrawing from the so-called multinational interception force (MIF) in line with the Jordanian effort to end the damaging sea-based inspections of al-'Aqabah-bound vessels.

According to the source, the issues on the table in the ongoing discussions in New York involve the mechanism for Lloyds Register's presence at al-'Aqabah, modalities of ensuring adherence to the U.N. resolutions that imposed the international sanctions against Iraq and who will pay the cost for Lloyds Register presence at al-'Aqabah. (The sources could not confirm reports that

Jordan might be seeking a Security Council announcement that the offshore inspections are being replaced with an onshore verification regime).

On the first point, Jordan has proposed that a Lloyds Register representative be included in a team along with port officials, clearning agents and shipping agents which will observe Jordanian customs inspection of all incoming and outgoing cargo related to Jordan, the source said. Such teams are a permanent fixture of all import and export procedures at the port in line with Jordanian customs regulations.

"The customs and the port authority are the two sides that never change," noted a shipping source, noting that other participants will be a representative of the clearing agent nominated by the importer and another nominated by the concerned shipping agents.

Under the proposal, Lloyds Register will join the customs and ports officials as standing members of the team until such time the situation in the international sanctions against Iraq is changed.

"This agreement will concern cargo coming into and going out of the Jordnian market," said the source. "Actually this is a concession that Jordan is making. There is no rule that says Jordan-bound cargo should be inspected or observed by anyone."

All Iraq-bound cargo in transit through Jordan will be stored at a separate warehouse, and will be cleared according to the guidelines set by the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

"All items other than food and medicine should have the approval of the Sanctions Committee," said the soruce. "Those that might arrive at the port will have to await such approval wherever that is necessary."

Sufian Muhaisan, manager of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSAA), confirmed that this was the broad outline of the Jordanian proposal.

"Jordan is abiding by the sanctions against Iraq, and there is no reason why Jordanian imports or exports should be inspected or even observed," Mr. Muhaisan told the JORDAN TIMES.

"Lloyds Register can observe what is going on at the port and what kind of goods come into and go out of Jordan and file its reports," he said. "Nothing more, nothing less," he added without elaboration.

Another point in the New York discussions is payment for Lloyds Register for its observatory presence at al-'Aqabah.

The Sanctions Committee has refused to accept a Jordanian request that the United Nations pay the cost, the sources said. The request was made by Prime Minister al-Majali when he addressed the committee in New York in December.

Subsequently Jordan proposed that the Amman government pay the costs and reduce the amount from the Kingdom's annual contribution to the U.N., the sources said. it was not clear by Saturday whether the world body had accepted the proposal. Reports from London said the amount being discussed was between $2 million and $3 million per year. There was no confirmation of these reports.

U.S. Acceptance of Proposal Reported

JN1005095294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 May 94 pp 1, 10

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The United States has officially informed Jordan of its acceptance of the Kingdom's proposal to replace the sea-inspection of al-'Aqabah-bound shipping with land-based verifications of cargo by the independent British company Lloyds Register, informed sources said Monday.

The sources said the U.S. decision was communicated to the Kingdom Sunday in a letter sent by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. American Embassy sources declined comment when asked about the letter. The sources said the U.S. decision would remove the obstacle to Jordan's resumption of its active role in the Arab-Israeli peace process and is a step towards restoring Jordanian-U.S. "normal and friendly relations."

The sources, which requested anonymity, said the siege on al-'Aqabah would be lifted after completing work on what they described as minor technicalities. That would be soon, they said.

They said the "fine-tuning" which Mr. Christopher referred to when he announced the acceptance of the Jordanian proposal in London on April 25 was almost over. Mr. Christopher said at a joint press conference with His Majesty King Husayn in London that the U.S. had accepted the Jordanian proposal to have Lloyds Register verify al-'Aqabah-bound cargo once it is unloaded in the port instead of the sea-inspections which the Kingdom says had caused enormous losses to its economy.

The American decision came a few days after France announced it was withdrawing from the international forces inspecting al-'Aqabah-bound shipping while enforcing the sanctions against Iraq.

Informed sources said that Canada had rejected an American offer to replace the French in light of Jordan's provision of an alternative to the sea-inspection.

The Lower House of Parliament Monday praised what it called the "belated" but "positive" French decision, expressing hope that other countries would follow suit, end the siege on the Red Sea port and compensate the Kingdom for the losses it has incurred from it.

"The (French decision) reflect's France's awareness of the correctness of Jordan's policies and the fairness of its demands."

Al-'Aqabah Deputy Abdul-Karim al-Kabariti said the U.S. decision to end the siege on al-'Aqabah is "a victory for the justness of the Jordanian demand over the logic of power which was exercised over it."

Mr. al-Kabariti said the lifting of the siege should be followed by more steps to improve the economic situation in the country because "a stable, moderate and strong Jordan will strengthen the cause of stability in the whole region."

Mr. al-Kabariti called on the United States to take concrete steps towards realising President Bill Clinton's promise to help write off some of Jordan's foreign debts, hoping the decision to end the sanctions would constitute a first step towards addressing the economic woes of the Kingdom, which, he said, has been in the forefront of forces for moderation in the region.

House Commends French Decision on Naval Inspections

JN0905145594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The House of Representatives has commended the existing positive and distinguished relations between Jordan and France based on mutual understanding and respect. In a statement issued today, the House of Representatives said it was satisfied with the French Government's decision to stop its participation in naval inspections at the Port of al-'Aqabah. Following is the text of the House of Representatives' statement:

The Jordanian House of Representatives received with some satisfaction the statements by the French Foreign Ministry's spokesman on Wednesday, 4 May 1994, which deal with the French Government's decision to stop its participation in naval inspections at the Port of al-'Aqabah.

Although the House of Representatives believes that this step is somewhat late, it still considers it a positive step since it shows the French Government's understanding and awareness of Jordan's sound policies, just demands, and firm and principled stands.

Moreover, the House of Representatives hopes that the French Government's decision will be the first step, followed by similar steps by other countries participating in the naval inspections, toward lifting the siege imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah and compensating Jordan for the serious losses it has suffered as a result of these inspections.

As the Jordanian House of Representatives is fully aware of the international changes and developments and of the fact that only one superpower is imposing its decisions and its own interpretation on others, and it hopes that the French Government will take another step by exerting more effort and playing a more effective role to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy in a just and unbiased manner.

At the same time, the Jordanian House of Representatives commended the existing positive and distinguished relations between Jordan and France based on mutual understanding and respect and the House called for the continuous development of these relations.

Official Welcomes France's Decision

JN0805081494 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 May 94 p 1

[Text] Amman, PETRA—Jordan yesterday welcomed the French Government's decision to suspend its participation in the naval inspection operations in al-'Aqabah Port.

This came in a statement by the Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, in answer to a question by the Jordanian News Agency. He said this decision was announced in a statement by the French Foreign Ministry's spokesman on Wednesday [4 May] on France's decision to halt its participation in naval inspection operations in al-'Aqabah Port.

Al-Hasan said the decision reflects France's understanding of Jordan's positive and constructive role in the region and the fairness of its request to reconsider the mechanism for implementing the embargo, which inflicted major losses on the Jordanian economy. The decision, he said, also reflect France's compliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and its conviction that Jordan is fulfilling all of its commitments and responsibilities toward the implementation of these resolutions.

Al-Hasan also praised the distinguished relations that are based on understanding and mutual respect between Jordan and France and the ties of close friendship between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand.

House Issues Statement on Situation in Yemen

JN0905135494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The House of Representatives has issued a statement on the situation in Yemen. In the statement, the House urged members of the Yemeni House of Representatives to play an effective role in maintaining the unity of Yemen. The statement also appealed to the Yemenis not to resort to the use of weapons and violence, to adhere to democratic policy, and to maintain the language of dialogue and negotiation. Following is the text of the statement:

With great concern and deep regret, the Jordanian House of Representatives is following the news from fraternal Yemen on the regrettable bloody events there, including the accompanying problems such as the thousands of

victims and the destruction of many of the brother Yemenis' achievements, foremost of which is Yemeni unity, the nucleus of the Arab unionist plan.

Proceeding from Arab brotherhood and from a concern for what is good for the Arabs, as represented by Jordan's sponsorship of the signing of the accord document and efforts to implement the document's provisions and to achieve reconciliation, the Jordanian House of Representatives calls on brothers in fraternal Yemen to refrain from using weapons and violence, to adhere to democratic policies, to maintain the dialogue and negotiations, and to concentrate all efforts on achieving a comprehensive development.

Moreover, the House calls on the brother members of the Yemeni House of Representatives to play an effective and positive role to maintain the unity of Yemen and its people's achievements. At the same time, the Jordanian House of Representatives announces its denunciation and condemnation of any attempt by any party to deviate the Yemeni crisis from its national course.

Condemns Attempts To Fuel War

JN1005085294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 May 94 p 3

[Reported by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament Monday condemned "possible attempts by foreign groups" to fuel the civil war in Yemen in what was seen as an indirect reference to some Gulf countries that have been allegedly supplying arms and money to the parties to the conflict.

Urging Yemenis to exert all possible efforts to solve their conflict through dialogue, the House called on the Yemeni people to "give up arms and violence" in order to preserve their unity.

"The major victim of the war will be the Yemeni unity, which is the core of Arab unity," the House said in a statement.

Referring to Jordan's hosting of the signing ceremony of the Yemeni reconciliation accord in February, the House said its concern with the situation in Yemen stems from its belief in the necessity of maintaining all that is positive in the Arab World.

The conflict between the formerly north and south Yemens exploded into full fledged civil war last Thursday when troops loyal to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih and Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid attacked each other near the former border of the two Yemens.

The situation continued to deteriorate since then and the United Nations evacuated most of its non-essential staff from the Arab peninsula state.

Diplomats were Saturday quoted as saying that President Salih's troops have tightened the noose around Aden, the former capital of South Yemen, and were poised to break through the gates of the city.

President Salih seems determined to settle the conflict with his southern foes militarily amidst calls from Aden that it is willing to accept foreign mediation.

Mr. al-Bid on Sunday reportedly contacted His Majesty King Husayn saying he was ready for dialogue with President Salih. The King brought the two Yemeni leaders to Amman to sign the reconciliation accord in February, but said last month that Jordan was leaving a military commission charged with separating northern and southern Yemeni troops.

Indications that the civil war was instigated and supported by foreign countries also came from the Jordan Press Association which said the bloody events in Yemen "could open the door (to interfere in the conflict) for suspicious foreign sides that work against the interests of the (Arab) nation and and its aspiration for unity." The association said in a statement that the fighting in Yemen poses a threat to Arab national security.

AL-DUSTUR daily said in an editorial that the civil war in Yemen could be the making of countries that are trying to punish Yemen for its stands on regional development, in what was seen as a reference to Yemen's opposition to the foreign coalition that drove Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991. The paper did not name these countries, but the reference was believed to be to some Arab Gulf countries.

Official Seeks Pan-Arab Solution in Yemen

NC0705090794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 7 May 94

[Telephone interview with Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, in Amman, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] How can the Yemeni crisis be contained?

[Al-Tall] It is truly regrettable to see the sons of the one homeland fighting one another. This must be solved by dialogue, which helps people reach full and final solutions to their problems. Taking up arms to resolve their problems is rejected, regretted, and unacceptable at the national Yemeni and pan-Arab levels.

Moreover, Jordan fully believes that Arab problems should be handled within the Arab family. Hence, Arab efforts should be consolidated as soon as possible to tackle the Yemeni issue to avoid any chance of intervention by non-Arab parties, which would further complicate the problem. Therefore, I appeal to our brother Yemenis to stop fighting at once and to return to

dialogue to solve their problems. There is no problem in the world that cannot be solved through dialogue as long as the collective goal of all parties is the higher national Yemeni interest.

We appeal to Arab states to quickly make the necessary efforts to resolve the existing problem in Yemen as soon as possible.

[Abu-al-Majd] You hosted a meeting with Yemeni leaders in Amman to sign the Pledge and Accord Document. Are you prepared to invite these leaders to Jordan again to solve the problem?

[Al-Tall] Jordan spares no effort to help any Arab state solve its problems. However, I believe that Jordan has already done all it can. I believe that the problem has deteriorated so much that now a collective Arab effort is needed. I think that the Arab Republic of Egypt, the major state in the Arab world, can play a role in finding a solution. Jordan will spare no effort to cooperate with its big sister Egypt. All other Arab states must assist in this matter. They have to stop the infighting among brother Yemenis as soon as possible.

[Abu-al-Majd] Egypt has proposed an urgent meeting of the Arab League to discuss the Yemeni developments. The League has responded and the permanent delegates will be meeting at the League headquarters today. Does Jordan have any specific proposals to submit to this meeting in coordination with Egypt to resolve the crisis?

[Al-Tall] Actually Jordan's previously announced proposals are clear and frank. Jordan has stated that the Yemeni brothers should solve their issues through dialogue and end their problems so that this predicament which has gripped fraternal Yemen for the past few months will disappear.

Of course the Arab League's meeting at the delegate level is a positive step in this regard, but I hope the meeting will be quickly followed by other meetings, coordination, and contacts at a higher level to resolve this problem as quickly as possible. The issue has regrettably developed regrettably to a serious point and there is fear, God forbid, that it might escalate and forces from outside the Arab region might intervene.

Jordan firmly believes Arab issues should be handled by the Arab nation itself without intervention by any force from outside the region.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do we understand from your statement that you are demanding, for example, a summit meeting or at least one at the level of foreign ministers to resolve this issue?

[Al-Tall] When the Arab League meets at a higher level, it will mean there is interest in the issue. I believe that the issue is of a magnitude that requires a meeting at the highest level and as soon as possible. I believe that if the mediation efforts are concerted, Arab efforts are rallied, and leaders of all Arab countries agree on a certain decision on Yemen, the Yemeni brothers will respond.

[Abu-al-Majd] There is a proposal to send Arab forces to disengage the forces. If the measure is agreed upon do you believe it will contribute to resolving the crisis?

[Al-Tall] I believe that an Arab meeting at the highest level would discuss all alternatives. If such a proposal has been submitted, why shouldn't it be implemented? However, I believe there still are some options that might prompt the Yemeni brothers to end the fighting and resume a dialogue.

[Abu-al-Majd] What options?

[Al-Tall] A joint Arab effort, led by Egypt.

Egypt's Sidqi Interviewed on Yemen, Arab Summit

JN0805092094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 May 94 pp 1, 2

[By Nabil Ghzawi]

[Excerpt] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has ruled out the convocation of an Arab summit at present to end Arab differences and rearrange the Arab house. He said that convening such a summit now is difficult and that it will be held only when all outstanding issues among the Arab countries are settled.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR at the end of his Jordan visit, Dr. Sidqi said Egypt welcomes reviving Arab solidarity among the fraternal Arab countries and unifiying efforts in this respect. He said his country supports the efforts the Arab League, in the person of its secretary general, has exerted to mend the rift among these fraternal countries.

On whether there are any new Egyptian moves to activate the peace process on the Arab-Israeli tracks following the successful signing of the Cairo agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said Egypt continues to exert efforts because it seeks a comprehensive and just settlement for the cause. He said: What has been achieved on the Palestinian-Israeli track is a step on the road to a just and comprehensive settlement on all tracks.

On the efforts and contacts to contain the Yemeni crisis, Dr. Sidqi said he has been in contact with the Jordanian officials during his stay in Amman to contain this fighting. He said: The bleeding started while we were in Jordan. He added: We in Egypt carry out an important role through personal envoys of President Husni Mubarak to Yemen and to other important parties to settle this crisis.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said: In light of our general policy, our stand is that we do not like to see Arabs use weapons against other Arabs. That's why our stand in Egypt in such cases is to try to have the parties negotiate to bring their viewpoints closer together in a peaceful, objective, and constructive manner. [passage omitted]

Editorial Laments 'Insane Fighting in Yemen'

JN0705122594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 May 94 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "The Insane Fighting in Yemen"]

[Text] The battles raging all over Yemen these days are unbelievable. Four years after unity between the north and south, matters between brothers have reached an apogee of violence and fighting unseen even in very fierce wars.

What recklessness and madness governs the minds of those who have the power to decide war in fraternal Yemen? What do they want for their country and united people? Are the brothers in Yemen going to reap anything but damage, ruin, death, and the destruction of everything that has been built?

All the mistakes, all the disputes, and all the so-called deviations and excesses do not in any way justify these violent forms of fighting and dispute. Who will benefit from the destruction of Aden or Sanaa airports? What does the bombing of the presidential palaces and vital installations in Sanaa and Aden mean? The only people who will benefit are the enemies of Yemen and the enemies of its people's unity and democratic march, which was supposed to proceed toward a new era, in which the Arab people of Yemen could build the foundations of their progress and harmonize with the spirit of the age.

Faced with these violent, bloody confrontations and the bitter fighting among the brothers, we in Jordan—whose leader patronized the reconciliation meeting and the signing of the pledge and accord document—are overwhelmed with sadness, pain, and outrage. We denounce what is going on in Yemen, regardless of the reasons and motives, and regardless of who resorted to violence first. We say: We denounce all the parties without exception, because now matter how big they may get, differences between two parties should not reach the point of shedding the blood of a young man or a child and the destruction of a house, a school, or a hospital.

As we today stand watching what is going on in the mountains and plains of that fraternal country, we can do nothing but urge the Yemeni leaders to resort to logic and spare the blood of their children. We urge them to preserve their country and their unity and prevent their country from becoming a new Somalia or a new Afghanistan, the two countries that symbolize destruction, chaos, and bloodbaths, where the hungry and homeless wait for aid convoys.

Al-Hariri Addresses Visiting Public Delegations 9 May

NC0905190794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has said: Our aim is to preserve the country. What we are seeking through our stance is the best interests of the people.

Addressing large public delegations that flocked to his residence from various areas in Lebanon today, he said: Our assets are the good people of this country. The country has had enough of 17 years of war. The country has been hijacked for 17 years, and now is the time for our good people to govern, and you represent these good people. There are some who have paid the war bill and we will not allow anyone to make you pay the peace bill.

Al-Hariri made these remarks when he received public figures and delegations that visited Quraytim Palace to show support and solidarity with the prime minister.

At 1900 today al-Hariri received Ministers Bisharah Mirhij, 'Umar Misqawi, Elie Hubayqah, Hagop Demerdjian, 'Adil Qirtas, Muhammad Ghaziri, and As'ad Rizq and Deputies Wajih al-Ba'arini, Zuhayr al-'Ubaydi, As'ad Harmush, and Farid Mkari.

Refuses Visitors 10 May

NC1005054394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] In a statement issued at dawn today, the Cabinet's General Secretariat says that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri thanks all the Lebanese citizens who flocked to his residence yesterday. The statement notes that the prime minister apologizes for not receiving other citizens and popular delegations today.

The statement stresses that contacts are continuing to resolve the political situation in the country.

Ministry Denies Reports of Protests

NC1005111194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has denied press reports today that demonstrations have taken place in Beirut and elsewhere. The source said that what happened is that several popular delegations flocked to the residence of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to voice their support.

The ministry has issued no permit for demonstrations, in accordance with a Cabinet decision.

Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij was contacted by Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri this morning. They assessed the political situation in light of the critical stage through which the country is passing. Minister Mirhij affirmed to Speaker Birri his commitment to the mainstays of the democratic parliamentary system.

Israeli Planes Carrying Out Raids 'Every 10 Minutes'

NC1005110694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1035 GMT 10 May 94

[Excerpts] A squadron of four Israeli warplanes twice raided the positions of the Ahmad Jibril-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in the al-Na'imah Hills and al-Damur at 1205 and 1210 today. The warplanes fired 10 delayed action missiles. Following the raids, the enemy warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut and flew at very low altitude over the south. Today's Israeli raids are the ninth since the beginning of the year.

A military source stated this afternoon that the Israeli enemy launched several raids against the al-Na'imah hills. The raids are continuing, the source added. Army units nearby are confronting the raiding warplanes using available weapons. Sources close to the Internal Security Forces have stated that the enemy warplanes used the sea route to reach their targets. The same sources added that an as yet unspecified number of people have been hurt. The Internal Security Forces have asked ambulances and Civil Defense teams to head for the area hit by the raid to evacuate the wounded to the hospitals. [passage omitted]

We have just received a report that the Israeli raids against the al-Na'imah hills resumed at 1315 this afternoon. The Israeli warplanes are launching a raid every 10 minutes. Three Palestinians have been wounded as a result. Since 1320, Israeli warplanes have been flying over Sidon and the Palestinian camps at medium altitude.

IAF Reports Hits Against PFLP-GC Targets

TA1005122194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] This afternoon, Israel Air Force [IAF] jets attacked terrorist targets belonging to Ahmad Jibril's organization in al-Na'imah, north of Sidon. All the planes returned safely to base.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman noted that the pilots reported accurate hits against their targets. The area attacked is under the complete control of Ahmad Jibril's organization and serves as a training base and staging point for attacks in the security zone.

Mashariqah on U.S. Campaign, Peace Process

NC0905194594 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 6 May 94 pp 62-63

[Interview with Vice President Zuhayr Mashariqah by correspondent Sana' al-Sa'id in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] The American campaign against Syria, which resulted recently in putting Syria on the list of states that have failed to assist in the fight against drugs, is very odd. Many believe that it is unfair. How do you view that campaign?

[Mashariqah] The campaign some elements in the U.S. Administration launched against Syria was undoubtedly unfair. It sought to inflict harm on Syria and its policy through accusing it of failure to fight drugs. It also aimed to destroy Syrian-American relations and put pressure on Syria to dissuade it from taking the stance it is assuming on the peace process and its fixed principles. That campaign sought also to belittle the outcome of the Geneva summit meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton and inhibit the impetus it gave to the peace process.

The manifest fact is that Syria is making efforts in cooperation with the Lebanese authorities to fight poppy and other drug farming, particularly in the Lebanese area of al-Biqa'. Syria has issued many legislations and laws to fight drugs, including the infliction of the severest punishments on whoever farms, manufactures, or smuggles narcotics. Syria's drug-fighting efforts seemed very satisfying to the United Nations, as represented in the regional committee on fighting drugs, which selected Damascus as a venue for its 30th session. The committee's representative saw that Syria's drug-fighting efforts are worthy of praise.

The goal of this campaign is to put pressure on Syria and force it to relinquish its solid stance and just issues, which were recognized by international legitimacy, that seek to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. But Syria's stance and its just claims cannot be the subject of one-upmanship.

[Al-Sa'id] Can this campaign be viewed as a sign of pressure on Syria, particularly since it was launched just before Christopher's tour of the region?

[Mashariqah] Putting Syria's name on the list of states that fail to fight drugs is merely extortion to drive it to accept Israeli conditions in the peace process. Syria always reiterates that it rejects extortion and will not tolerate one-upmanship when it comes to its basic issues. There is no way that Syria will relinquish its rights; it is determined to hold on to basic principles concerning Arab rights and claims. Pressure will only enhance Syria's insistence on these rights and on defending them. All methods and pressure will not succeed to force it off its course or make it back down on its approach to defend Arab rights and issues.

[Al-Sa'id] The Geneva summit, held between presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Clinton on 16 January, managed to shed light on the fact that the Syrian role is the key to peace in the Middle East. How can the obstacles placed by Israel to block a comprehensive and just peace in the region be overcome?

[Mashariqah] The success of the Geneva summit in January between presidents al-Asad and Clinton was great. It drew the attention of various Arab and world political circles and it was reported by all print and broadcast media in detail. These media focused on the summit's effectiveness and positive results.

President al-Asad went to Geneva to remove Zionism's allegations and falsifications that cast doubt on Syria's desire for peace. He stressed that a just and comprehensive peace is an irreversible strategic option for Syria.

The Geneva summit has turned over a new page in the bilateral relations between Damascus and Washington and enhanced the great role of Syria and its president. The U.S. President became certain that Syria's pan-Arab role is unique and that Syria's influence in events at the regional level cannot be bypassed. The summit's atmosphere was positive and the Americans asserted that they will make sincere efforts to achieve a tangible progress in the peace process.

Obviously, Israel did not like the atmosphere that prevailed at the summit or the results. So it began to raise doubts, disseminate fabricated lies, and show reservations to circumvent the outcome of the Geneva summit, absolve itself from the requirements of the peace process, and diminish the world's serious stance on achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region, especially that of the United States.

Syria has always stressed its enthusiasm about the peace process and ensuring that it achieves its goals by bringing about a just and comprehensive peace that will restore Arab rights and territories. As far as Syria is concerned, peace is an irreversible strategic option. If the United States makes a sincere effort to make tangible progress in the peace process, as President Clinton promised at the Geneva summit, and plays the role of an impartial mediator, the process can achieve its desired goals according to international legitimacy resolutions.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the methods the Israeli Government uses in its dealings with the peace process?

[Mashariqah] The methods of the Israeli Government affirm that it tends to stall, delay, and weasel its way out of discussing the basic issues that lead to establishing a just and permanent peace and that were stipulated by the principles of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions. This peace is based on retrieving the occupied Arab territories and the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. In addition, the current attempts to proceed with partial and unilateral solutions could create obstacles before a just and comprehensive peace is

realized, which was the objective of the Madrid conference and the negotiations that followed it in Washington. The maneuvers and practices of the Israeli Government are preventing the establishment of the desired peace. If the Israeli Government continues its methods, it will make these real opportunities for peace hit a dead end.

Syria wants peace. What is important now is to use logic in all matters. Logic dictates that we have an international resolution that stipulates a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Syria adheres to the peace process in accordance with the bases and grounds of the Madrid peace process. These bases concentrate on international legitimacy represented in Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the land-for-peace formula.

[Al-Sa'id] There are some sides rushing to normalize relations with Israel and lift the boycott before establishing peace. What do you think about this?

[Mashariqah] The Arab boycott of Israel was an Arab decision made by the Arab League at that time to confront Israel's aggressive policy and expansionist ambitions. If this decision is to be reviewed, only the side that passed it can do so when it finds a need for this. The reality is that the reasons that the boycott decision was made still exist. The Arab territories are occupied, national rights are usurped, and Israel does not want to establish just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the international legitimacy resolutions. In the Washington peace talks, it is resorting to procrastination, deception, and wasting time. At the same time, it continues to build its settlements and commit crimes and massacres, one after the other, against the Arab citizens in the occupied territories. It wants land and peace. It wants peace for peace. This is how it wants to normalize relations with the Arabs. It wants control and influence. It wants to hegemonize over the Arab region and control its resources. It wants to realize its strategies in any way possible so that the whole Arab region will submit to it in the end. What stands in the way of Israel's dreams is Syria's firm and principled stance in confronting its maneuvers and tricks, as well as its adherence to the basic principles of the peace process, which stem from international legitimacy and implementation of the latter's resolutions.

[Al-Sa'id] Inter-Arab disarray has weakened the position of Arab negotiators with Israel. In your view, how can solidarity be restored among Arabs?

[Mashariqah] Disarray has indeed weakened the position of Arab negotiators. This is what Israel has been eager to achieve so that it could negotiate with this or that Arab side alone, wrestle as many concessions as it could, strip the peace process of the required momentum, and shatter the hopes peace-loving elements in the region and in the world have pinned on that process. From the outset, Syria has been careful to sustain Arab solidarity and keep up coordination among the negotiating Arab delegations. It believed in the need for a comprehensive and just solution that guarantees the restoration of Arab rights and lands as a natural prologue for stability and peace in the region. Syria has not ceased to exert sincere efforts to restore Arab solidarity. This solidarity enhances the position of Arab negotiators and foils Israel's procrastination, which seeks to ruin the peaceful process.

[Al-Sa'id] How do you view Israel's attempt to promote a Middle Eastern market through which it can control the region?

[Mashariqah] Since it was planted in the heart of the Arab homeland, Israel has pursued an aggressive expansionist policy and a strategy that seeks to control the entire Arab region with its political, economic, military, and cultural capabilities. Nothing has changed in Israel's policy and strategy. Its talk about peace is just a maneuver. Israel does not want peace; it is far from binding itself to the principles of a just and comprehensive peace as specified by the resolutions of international legitimacy. It is trying to make negotiations lose their vigor; it wastes time and effort at the Washington talks to make the process lose its momentum. Israel wants to normalize relations with Arabs and wants peace for peace. In other words, it wants Arabs to surrender to its will because it wants land and peace, control and influence, and seeks to subjugate the region to its will, policy, and strategy. Its promotion of the idea of a Middle East market falls in this context. What shatters Israel's dreams is Syria's solid stance regarding its maneuvers and the Arab masses' determination to hold onto their rights and claims against Israel's schemes and procrastination.

[Al-Sa'id] How can Arab relations be developed in the face of the so-called new world order?

[Mashariqah] There is no new world order; there are international changes and developments that led to the disintegration of the Socialist bloc in Eastern Europe and the collapse of the Soviet Union and, consequently, the emergence of the unipolar trend in international relations. These changes have not reached their ultimate form and developments are continuing. Hence, we cannot talk of a developed new world order.

At any rate, developing Arab relations and enhancing Arab solidarity are for the good of the Arab nation. They will help it cope with international developments and defend its rights and existence by confronting threats. The same thing goes for relations with Islamic states.

Christopher's Success Depends on 'Facts and Deeds'

JN0905143994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The U.S. Administration is expected to resume its efforts in the Middle East early next week

with a new tour by its chief diplomat, Warren Christopher, in order to clear the way for the resumption of the Washington bilateral negotiations. It is natural that the resumption of the negotiations should be linked with the degree of seriousness in Israel's answers to the basic questions Secretary of State Christopher carried from Damascus after he held detailed talks with President Hafiz al-Asad.

It is also natural that progress or stalemate in the peace process should be linked to real change in Israel's position. No one would disagree that the establishment of peace needs action rather than sweet talk on the importance of and the need for achieving that peace. The U.S. Administration has sensed Syria's true intentions, and President Bill Clinton has not concealed this. Moreover, he has reiterated on many occasions his belief in Syria's credible position and its serious trend toward peace. Christopher did the same during his tour of the region last week.

Syria's concern for pushing the peace process forward, however, does not at all mean any relinquishment of its constants or any bargaining over territory, rights, and sovereignty. These are matters that Syria will never reconsider under any circumstances. President Bill Clinton's administration, as well as Israel, knows this fact.

Total withdrawal from Golan is the basis for negotiations on the Syrian track. This occupied Syrian territory should return completely to the motherland, as it used to be before the June aggression of 1967. Syria's right to sovereignty over its territory is a fact that cannot, and will not be bypassed. What applies to Golan also applies to the occupied part of southern Lebanon and to Jordanian territories occupied by Israel. Hence, the importance of continued coordination among the Arab parties involved in the peace process. This coordination will be a guarantee for the Arabs and will constitute a weapon that will enable them to regain their usurped rights and their occupied territories and to avoid the Israeli trap of unilateral deals and partial settlements.

Experience has shown that such settlements will not achieve peace, but will undermine the chances of achieving a comprehensive and just peace. The best example is the disappointment of the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories following the signing of the fragile self-rule accord, which will keep the Palestinian people subject to Israel's mercy and domination.

Syria is working to establish a comprehensive peace and durable peace that will not create disappointments. Such a peace cannot be achieved without the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle, which former President George Bush's administration proposed, and on which the Madrid conference was launched under the U.S. and Russian sponsorship, and to which current President Clinton's administration committed itself after pledging to play a fair and complete partner in the peace process.

Those who seek such a peace will find every cooperation from Syria. But if talk about peace is merely an Israeli maneuver, no new tour by Washington will achieve anything to save the peace process from the crisis in which the Israeli rulers have placed it.

Syria has repeatedly asserted that peace falls within the strategy it has adopted for many years. But the other side, Israel, has been talking about peace at a time when it places obstacles, mines, and thorns on the road. Today, we say that the opportunity to achieve peace is available if intentions are sincere and if statements turn into action on the ground. Otherwise, the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace will remain out of reach. This fact will be sensed by the head of U.S. diplomacy, Warren Christopher, when he returns to the Middle East. He should deal with facts and deeds to succeed in his new mission and so that the peace process can witness a real move toward its desired goal.

India

Bombs Explode at Officials' Homes in Sikkim

BK0905102094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] In Sikkim, two bombs exploded at the residence of the state power minister and the former chief secretary. The director general of police, Mr. P.S. Bawa, told PTI today that the power minister, Mr. B.B. Subba, was not at his residence when the explosion took place last night. Another bomb was hurled at the residence of the former chief secretary, Mr. P.K. Pradhan, in the early hours yesterday. The explosions, however, did not cause much damage.

Four Police Killed in Assam Explosion

BK0905162094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] In Assam, six persons including a senior police officer and three constables were killed and four others injured when suspected Bodo militants blew up a vehicle early this morning. The incident occurred near (Bairokundu) in Darang District. Official sources in Guwahati said the vehicle was blown off by a powerful remote control device. The militants also opened indiscriminate fire killing a passerby. The injured have been shifted to hospital.

Minister Comments on U.S. Trade 'Threat'

BK1005032794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] New Delhi has categorically told Washington that bilateral trade disputes should be resolved at the multilateral level and not through unilateral actions. The commerce minister stated in the Rajya Sabha when members drew the attention of the house to the reported U.S. threat of invoking Special 301 provision of its Trade Act. Replying to a question, Mr. Pranab Mukherji ruled out granting product patents with retrospective effect and said these can be considered only after the World Trade Organization agreement comes into force. He said the government intends to set up an expert group to suggest changes needed in the Indian Patents Act. He made it clear that all patents are to be granted under our own legislation and not under the provisions of the global agreement relating to Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights.

Editorial Decries Possible U.S. Sanctions

BK0905130194 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 7 May 94 p 8

[Editorial: "US and Super 301"]

[Text] The Indian Government cannot be blamed if it despairs of pumping sense and sensitivity into the Clinton Administration. In keeping with the Superman syndrome by which it is possessed, the US is once again raring to upset the applecart by threatening India with imposition of sanctions under the Super 301 law for its alleged failure on a variety of counts which properly fall within the mandate of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The US has thus cocked its snook at the nearly 120 plenipotentiaries who gathered at Marrakesh barely 8 few weeks ago to issue a solemn Ministerial Declaration. The signatories were enjoined, with immediate effect and until the WTO came formally into being, not to take any unilateral trade measures or sanctions that would detract from the sanctity of the Final Act and start a bush fire of protectionism. The Clinton Administration has reportedly assured the US Congress in effect that, whatever the Final Act may permit or prohibit, the US will continue to have the cake and eat it as well by grabbing all the goodies of GATT and by imposing unilateral sanctions whenever it felt so disposed.

The US has backtracked to the extent of holding the Super 301 steps against India in abeyance for two months, hoping no doubt for applause for small mercies. Actually, the deferment is true to the pattern of 'say (or do) now, think later' that is now governing the conduct of the US. Slowing down on Super 301 must have been the result of its suddenly dawning on US officials that the Indian Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, is slated to visit their country in mid May. Invoking Super 301 just a few weeks before his visit, ostensibly for friendly exchange of views with the US President, would have been, even for the US, an act of insufferable boorishness. But that does not, by any means, take away the sting. Mr. Rao will be left in no doubt, implied or otherwise of the Damocles' sword hung over his head, as a way of warning 'or else'. The US has been making no allowances at all for the susceptibilities of others, whether it is China, Japan, North Korea or India, and insisting on having things its way. Like a spoilt child, it expects unquestioned submission to its dictates from the rest of the world. Thereby, it has been throwing to the four winds not just diplomatic niceties but the time-honoured, sacrosanct virtue of good neighbourliness marked by consideration and accommodation. One is really puzzled as to what to make of all this. Being left with no counterweight on the world balance after the collapse of the Soviet Union, does the US feel free to go on a rampage at will? Has some undiagnosed paranoia taken hold of some of the Administration functionaries, unversed in the art of international relations, and do they feel continually insecure without flexing their muscles? Whatever it is, what is being witnessed is the worst possible manifestation of the old chant: what is good for the General Motors is good for America and what is good for America is good for all the world!

So much the pity. For, the US is still the world's exemplar in the openness of its society and the lively, forthcoming and open nature of its people. Its instincts are generous as when it went all out for saving the world from Hitler or poured billions of dollars as part of the Marshall Plan. It has been foremost in rushing to the

succour of nations in the grip of famine and starvation. It has given refuge to thousands fleeing from oppression and persecution. A country with such high credentials as a free society, as a democracy and as a friend of the world's needy and hungry has no reason at all to abandon grace and throw its weight about.

All that apart, the question of questions now is: With the US in no mood to make amends but, on the contrary, being prone to indulge in rude antics, should the Prime Minister visit the US as scheduled? Or should he call off the trip? How will he look if, without even waiting for his back to turn, the US clamps Super 301 or does something equally offensive? The US itself in the past thought nothing of blackballing the leaders of the countries for some real or fancied slight. When Lal Bahadur Shastri had the temerity to comment on American intervention in Vietnam some weeks before a planned official visit to the US, President Johnson called it off abruptly without any compunction. Mr. Rao will do well to think twice about the heavy price he and the country may have to pay just for the pleasure of a photo session with President Clinton.

New Delhi To Boost Ties With Israel, Palestinians

BK1005092894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] India has expressed its desire to develop closer and stronger bilateral relations with Israel and Palestine. This view was expressed in separate meetings the vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, had with the Israeli president, Mr. Weizman, and the PLO chief, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, in Johannesburg yesterday.

In his meeting with Mr. 'Arafat, Mr. Narayanan offered India's support in the reconstruction and development of Palestine after the situation settles down in the region. India has already pledged $1 million in kind during the international donors meeting in Cairo. New Delhi has also offered 15 additional training positions for paramedical staff from Palestine.

Citizens in Yemen 'Safe'; Embassy Aiding Evacuees

BK1005110394 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 7 May 94 p 12

[Text] New Delhi—The 7,000 strong Indian community in Yemen is safe and some of them have expressed a desire to leave the strife-torn country, an official spokesman said today, according to UNI.

The Indian embassy in Sanaa is assisting the Indian nationals to leave Yemen where fierce fighting has erupted between North and South Yemeni forces.

India has expressed sincere hope that peaceful conditions will be rapidly restored and all differences resolved on the basis of the Amman reconciliation agreement signed in February.

Iran

Commentary Criticizes Pelletreau Remarks

LD0905142494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 9 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The U.S. under secretary of State for Middle Eastern affairs, Robert Pelletreau, talking to reporters in Abu Dhabi yesterday, has made certain remarks about Iran and has once again raised the US officials' accusations, expressing concern over Iran's role in the region.

Mr. Pelletreau, a politician considered familiar with the affairs of Iran and that of the Middle East, during yesterday's press conference, by using such terms as Iran's ambitions for seeking regional domination and the use of terrorist approaches, tried to announce to other regional countries, through the mass media, the U.S. leaders' message of friendship and loyalty in defending the regional countries against the likely threat of Iran.

Of course, the U.S. under secretary of State for Middle Eastern affairs, in line with the task entrusted to him, also did not leave the point unsaid that his country continues to call for pressure and economic sanctions against Iran by the U.S.'s allies in Europe and other pro-Western countries. He stressed that the U.S. believes that this trend should continue until such time as Iran alters its policies and turns into a good neighbor in the Persian Gulf.

What the U.S. under secretary of state has said is neither new nor a new development in the U.S.'s outlook toward Iran, since, according to political analysts, it is not the first time that U.S. leaders are explaining their policies with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran; they have done so on various occasions and under certain specific conditions in the past as well.

Despite this, Mr. Robert Pelletreau's explicit remarks in Abu Dhabi, in an overall assessment should be considered as indicative of the sensitivity U.S. leaders have always shown over the determining role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf region; a region that is extremely vital for the U.S. and its regional interests.

It is beyond doubt that seasoned American politicians are well aware of the reality that the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved substantial progress in its political, economic, and cultural ties with its neighbors, especially in Central Asia and in the Persian Gulf region. Obviously these ties have not been shaped on the basis of Iran's fear in the region, rather, as has been clearly stated by the leaders of those countries, these ties are selective and are aimed at realizing joint bilateral interests with deep understanding of the need for the enhancement of regional ties for preserving peace and stability in the region.

Therefore, it is not unusual to see that the U.S. leaders, by using such terms as domination, threat for the region, or by warning the neighbors not to have close ties with Iran, try to justify the sale of more arms to the regional countries. Mr. Pelletreau also seems to have a short memory as, during his remarks in Abu Dhabi, he overlooked the point that, in his earlier report in March 1994, which was submitted to the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives following the failure of U.S. efforts to isolate Iran on the international scene, he had described the Iranian Government as a permanent reality, adding that he was prepared to hold talks with Iranian officials on disputed issues.

UK Allegations of IRA Links Termed 'Smokescreen'

NC0605185594 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Observance of International Conventions Should Be Mutual"]

[Text] The British government has accused the Islamic Republic of establishing contact with and of helping the Irish Republican Army. The Iranian Charge d'Affaires in London, Gholamreza Ansari was called to the Foreign Office and handed a protest note by British officials. The Islamic Republic has denied the British allegation.

Regardless of London's objection and Iran's denial, and considering the fact that influential Irish-Americans are the main suppliers of arms and money to the IRA, the question which begs for an answer is whether or not Britain or any other Western country has the right to question Iran's actions regarding adherence to internationally accepted conventions?

From the Iranian point of view, Western countries have repeatedly ignored the spirit of international conventions which regulate relations between individual countries. The 1961 and 1963 Vienna Conventions requiring the observance of mutual diplomatic rules among nations and emphasizing the reciprocity of action regarding Consular staff and activities, have been openly ignored by the West through their overt and covert support for Iranian terrorist groups residing in their countries.

Western powers, Britain among them, can not plead ignorance when it comes to the terrorist nature of anti-Iranian groups they harbor in the West, because all they have to do is to instruct their embassies in Tehran to monitor anti-Iranian radios who teach their elements inside the Islamic Republic how to manufacture homemade bombs and slaughter innocent Iranian citizens.

The government of the Islamic Republic has been under increasing domestic public opinion pressure which questions the wisdom of Iran's policy of not allowing Bader-Meinhof, Direct Action, or the IRA to have offices in Tehran, while anti-Iranian terrorist groups enjoy almost full diplomatic rights in Bonn, Paris, and London. The Iranian public is consistently questioning the government why it adheres to international conventions regarding aiding and abetting terrorists when Western countries so openly and flagrantly ignore the same conventions.

The damage, both in human and monetary terms, caused by anti-Iranian terrorist groups harbored, financed, and armed by Western countries, are huge compared to those caused by the three above-mentioned Western terrorist organizations. This latest baseless British protest over the Iran-IRA contact is but a smoke-screen to hide the fact that Western-based anti-Iranian terrorists are providing materiel and personnel to the Iraqi-based terrorists to attack targets inside the Islamic Republic. The British protests are also meant to cover up the fact that Western intelligence sources are encouraging these same anti-Iranian terrorists.

Official on Opposition to Gaza Accord

LD0505203394 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1609 GMT 5 May 94

[Studio interview with Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, deputy foreign minister in charge of African-Arab Affairs, by unidentified correspondent—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr. Sheykholeslam, we know the administrative agreement for the Gaza-Jericho plan was signed in Cairo yesterday. What was the PLO's and Tel Aviv's aim in signing this agreement?

[Sheykholeslam] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, greetings to dear viewers. As you might know, the issue of Gaza and its transfer to Egypt has been under review for some time in Israeli circles. As reported in the press, the management of this part of Palestine had become a serious problem for the Israelis due to an intense and extensive revolutionary movement, or what we know today as intifadah. Intifadah consists of methods that we had in our own revolution; that is, people coming into the streets with bare hands and there taking whatever they can. Everyone—small children and old men—wanted the Israelis to leave them alone and to get out of their country. One faction in Israel believed that they should let go of the area and get out no matter what.

Mr. Rabin, Mr. Peres, and other statesmen believed that they should save something from the spoiled oil, and Mr. 'Arafat was after getting whatever they would give him at any cost. So they reached this agreement. In reality, Israelis aim to control intifadah through the Palestinians themselves. Unfortunately, Mr. 'Arafat has a poor record in the war between Palestinians. On various occasions, he has suppressed Palestinians for political and personal interests—including in Lebanon, where we were a witness.

The main danger facing the situation is that, God forbid, Palestinian police trained by Britain and other western countries should stand face to face against the Palestinian nation and take the place of the Israeli police, which is presently the main instrument of suppression, and that the war becomes one among Palestinians. This has to be avoided whatever way possible.

[Correspondent] Mr. Sheykholeslam, you spoke about the intifadah before. What is the reason for the intifadah to oppose the accord?

[Sheykholeslam] As you know, Jericho and Gaza is a very small part of the land of Palestine. The greater part of the land of Palestine has remained in the possession of the Israelis. It is the right of the Palestinian nation to oppose the accord and to fight for the liberation of its land. More importantly, 'Arafat has given the Israelis a guarantee of security and has considered the control of the Palestinians as one of his duties. However, despite that, the Israelis have, nevertheless, guaranteed the unjust right to enter that same confined area that was put at the disposal of Mr. 'Arafat for self-rule any time they wish. In fact, he becomes a mayor of that area. Whenever—this is categorically stated in the accord—whenever they consider it necessary to enter the area for their security, they will do so. In fact, the Palestinian nation has not achieved anything. Moreover, they seek to divest it of its main right, which is fighting for the liberation of its lands.

That is why the intifadah does not accept the accord. The number of those who do not accept the accord is far larger than the number of those who accept it. I venture to say that if there were to be a referendum or a similar plebiscite, the accord will undoubtedly fail to gain any votes. Undoubtedly, those supporting the accord will be in the minority. The movement is still continuing, either by the Palestinians inside or those outside.

[Correspondent] We see that the United States and Egypt especially, among the Arab states, are mostly seeking to internationalize the issue. They invite various states to gather in Cairo, as well as movies and satellite films, etc. Is all that for the same reason? Is it all for raising the issue and establishing the issue, or are there other reasons for it?

[Sheykholeslam] In fact, since the weakness of the accord at its heart is obvious to the Arab states, they are trying to get it accepted by the Arab nation through much propaganda and hue and cry. Despite all the invitations extended by the Egyptian Government to the foreign ministers of various states, there was not good participation. Foreign ministers of principal states, such as Lebanon and Syria, were not present.

There is no doubt that the weakness of the accord was evident both in the minds of the Americans and the Israelis. That was even evident yesterday at the scene of the signing of the accord, as it was being shown in the news bulletin. I was watching the Egyptian television's live broadcast. 'Arafat hesitated in signing some sections and demonstrated that even he did not wish to accept the accord. Then, as a result of the dominating pressure of the leaders of states there, unfortunately, he eventually signed. It is regrettable that the fate of the Palestinian nation was exchanged for the sake of several presidents and foreign ministers.

In any case, the Americans and some other big countries want no one to oppose the accord. That, in itself, is evidence to the weakness of the accord. It is clear that opposition can damage it.

[Correspondent] Considering the role of Arab countries, perhaps we can divide them into two groups—the countries that do not share borders with occupied Palestine, and those who are next to it such as Syria and Jordan. How do you see the role of each of those countries?

[Sheykholeslam] Some of those countries, like Syria, adopted a better stance from the beginning. Syria is calling for Israel's complete withdrawal from the Golan, which has been occupied by Israel. I should mention that Syria has resisted well despite various pressure exerted by some Arab and large countries like America, and sometimes Russia, and has not given up its fundamental stances. Christopher brought various plans during his recent visit, and the Syrian reaction so far does not indicate that the Syrians have accepted Christopher's plans. Those plans are about Israel's withdrawal from three villages.

Lebanon has adopted a very good stance so far. Their stances have been in coordination with those of the Syrians. [passage omitted]

Jordan, with its large Palestinian population, tried to see that the accord developed in a way that did not harm it. [passage omitted]

Egypt is left, which is obvious. Unfortunately, a wrong step was taken by Anwar Sadat, and Egypt has left the camp of struggle against Israel since then.

On the whole, the stances of the countries who live next to Palestine are, unfortunately, not very solid, and they accept the presence of Israel due to their need or dependency on the United States. That is a great danger that threatens the Arab world in the future.

[Correspondent] If you allow me, I would like to raise my final question. Please tell us about the Islamic Republic of Iran's position with respect to the recent accord?

[Sheykholeslam] The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been clear from the beginning. Since before the revolution in Iran, his eminence the imam believed that Israel should be destroyed. It is an illegitimate creation that has been imposed on the region. [passage omitted]

Naturally, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports all oppressed nations and their struggles—such as the Bosnians. It also supports the struggle of the Palestinian nation, particularly since the Muslims' first Qiblah, the

Holy Quds, is there. The accord has no grounds whatsoever, and one of the main slogans that says Quds must be the capital of Palestine has been ignored. Only a request has been made by Mr. 'Arafat in his speech that the holy place should remain open to Muslim pilgrims.

It is said that the Israelis have not even mentioned the holy places by their real Islamic names in the maps that they have prepared, which is regrettable. The accord offers nothing but abjectness. Fortunately, the Palestinian nation is on the scene, resists, and continues to roar for its rights.

We condemn the accord and support the Muslim nation of Palestine and their struggle.

[Correspondent] Mr. Sheykholeslam, thank you for coming to our studio.

Abducted Diplomats in Hands of 'Zionist Regime'

LD0905163994 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Beirut, May 9, IRNA—Four Iranian diplomats who were abducted in 1982 are alive and have been handed over to Zionist regime's officials in occupied Palestine, a source close to Lebanese Government disclosed here Monday.

The source, who is close to Lebanese minister of hydraulic and electrical resources Ilyas Hubayqah, told IRNA here Monday that the Iranians were delivered to Zionist regime by elements affiliated with head of Lebanese Maronite Party Samir Ja'ja'.

He said the hostages who were three Iranian diplomats along with Islamic republic news agency's photographer were taken as hostage when they came across a Lebanese paramilitary troops' checkpoint in 1982. They were taken to occupied Palestine via sea last year once Geagea was forced to quit his command headquarters.

Since then, Iranian officials repeatedly have called for their release, but Lebanese paramilitary troops have refused to acknowledge that they are holding the four Iranian hostages.

Families of the hostages have also offered documents to the international bodies, appealing for their release.

Foreign Minister Velayati also in a letter last month called on his Lebanese counterpart Faris Bouez to probe into the issue.

Commentary on Algeria's Stance Toward FIS

LD0905125594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Despite the fact that Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi came to power over one month ago, there has been no effort made toward establishing comprehensive discussions. Instead, government officials repeat their promises and sometimes pledge new ones.

In his latest speech, the Algerian prime minister promised to hold parliamentary elections soon, but said this depends on the outcome of talks among the country's political forces. Sifi also emphasized that all factions respecting the Constitution and the law can participate in the talks.

But it seems that such statements are somewhat in contradiction to government practices, and that the new Algerian Government insists on repeating the mistakes of its predecessors.

What could be the meaning of talks and a pretense of reconciliation whene leaders of the most important political organization are in prison, and while the government does not even recognized them?

In the opinion of most political observers, the current Algerian statesmen are trying to play for time because they realize that they can not have the upper hand in any dialogue, and to achieve supremacy it is necessary to guarantee the support of other parties other than the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. In other words, a coalition should be formed against the Front, and public opinion should become skeptical of the nature, operation and aims of the Front in order to reduce its popular support. Political experts thus see yesterday's demonstrations in Algeria within this context.

Thousands of people participated in a peaceful march and called for an end to violence and the continuation of talks.

According to news agency reports, parties close to the government had organized the demonstrations, with the support of the police. Political experts say that the move was designed to agitate public opinion against FIS and to measure popular tendencies, but it was cooly received and was countereffective.

Meanwhile, it was announced in Algeria that two French citizens were killed after being targeted by armed men. France is the main foreign supporter of Algeria's military government, and last year, Islamic combatants warned that—in order to end western governments' support—western citizens would be targeted and that they they must leave Algeria before the end of the year.

But attacks against foreigners came to an end following promises of talks with Islamists. It now seems, however, that FIS leaders prefer not to put hope in the empty official promises, which only gives more time to the ruling military to uproot Muslim combatants and destroy their organization, and thus attain obtain its own interests in the political arena.

Armenian Vice President Meets Velayati, Departs

NC0505111594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Armenian Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan met Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati and expressed the deep sorrow of his Government and the Armenian people on the Iranian plane accident in Nagorno-Karabakh in which some of our compatriots lost their lives. He said: The Armenian nation and Government share the sorrow and sadness of the people of Iran, especially of the bereaved families.

In this meeting, the Armenian vice president expressed the hope that peace would return to the Nagorno-Karabakh region as soon as possible. Arutyunyan left Tehran last night. Earlier he described the outcome of his talks with our country's officials as positive.

More Than 11,000 Volunteer To Go To Bosnia

LD0705185894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] More than 11,000 basijis [volunteer forces] of Ilam Province have enrolled at basij resistance centers and bases and are ready to be dispatched to Bosnia-Herzegovina. This follows the guidelines issued by the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution on all-round support for the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards for Ilam district said today: If the political obstacles to the dispatching of volunteers are removed, and we dispatch the first group of volunteers to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the number of enrolling volunteers is expected to increase manyfold. He added: The enrollment of volunteers in Ilam Province is still continuing in urban and rural areas and in offices.

Hopes for Closer Ties With Bosnia Viewed

NC0805145694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 8 May 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] Dr. Velayati, our foreign minister, and his accompanying high-level diplomatic delegation, who are on a visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, were accorded a warm welcome yesterday by the Bosnians. These people had gathered around the president's house hours before the arrival of the Iranian delegation, expressed their appreciation for Iran's selfless compassion and the unstinting assistance of our people.

During the visit by 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the first Iranian ambassador was introduced in Sarajevo, and brief talks were held between the officials of the two countries. In his meeting with Dr. Velayati, President Alija Izetbegovic said: Had it not been for the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the struggles of the Bosnian Muslims would certainly have had a different fate.

In this meeting, Dr. Velayati described the resistance of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina as inspiring pride. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is on the side of the Bosnian Muslims with all its might. It may be mentioned that the visit of the Iranian delegation lasted 10 hours in all and at present, Dr. Velayati is in Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

In his first round of talks with the Croatian prime minister, Velayati stressed the common stances of Tehran and Zagreb as regards the need for greater seriousness on the part of the United Nations for resolving the crisis in the Balkan region and he criticized the procrastination and inattention of the Security Council. Dr. Velayati described the UN's procrastination and failure to implement the Security Council's resolutions on Bosnia-Herzegovina as unprecedented in the history of the organization.

Dr. Velayati also participated in a press conference along with the Croatian prime minister. The latter hailed Iran's support for a federation between the Bosnian Croats and Muslims and expressed his appreciation for Iran's efforts to resolve the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis. In this press conference, Dr. Velayati referred to the Croatian prime minister's visit to Tehran last week and deemed the tripartite session of Tehran-Zagreb-Sarajevo, useful and effective for the establishment of peace and security in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It may be mentioned that last week, on the invitation of Iran, two high-level delegations from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia had visited Tehran and important talks had taken place to resolve the crisis in the Balkan peninsula. The current visit by the Iranian diplomatic delegation to this area is in fact considered a continuation of the talks in Tehran.

Pakistan Criticized After Official's Murder

NC0805172794 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 3 May 94 p 1

[Editorial: "The Murderer Suddenly Escaped"]

[Text] The head of the cultural center of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Lahore, Pakistan was killed by members of the Seoah-e Sahaba Wahhabi group [extremist Sunni group allegedly supported by Saudi Government] in the month of Azar [22 November-21 December] in 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1990]. The Pakistani Government arrested eight persons in this case. The group members were interrogated and the leaders were sentenced to be executed. However, this sentence was never carried out due to the pressure of certain influential groups.

A few days ago, Pakistani publications carried a brief report on the escape of Rashid Sabra, one of the members of the group, while he was being escorted to the special tribunal, in what seemed to be a clearly manipulated scenario.

Sabra's escape may be viewed by the local Pakistani officials, including the provincial Punjab government, as a normal incident but in the Iranian public's opinion, this shows a lack of decisiveness in a bilateral issue. The provincial government affiliated with the Muslim League, which claims to be more Islamist than the ruling Pakistan People's Party, can only mar the friendly relations between the two Muslim countries of the region with such an attitude. This also raises the question in the minds of the Shiites about what country is giving orders to the Muslim League leadership.

The protection of the lives of citizens and diplomats resident in every country is the responsibility of the central government, on the basis of international protocols. When Ganji was martyred, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran displayed immense restraint and poise and merely requested that the culprits be punished. However, it did not receive any firm or categorical response.

Riaz Sabra is a Pakistani citizen who acted on instructions from some subservient group and martyred one of the cultural officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and who has become linked to the tarnishing of bilateral relations.

Therefore, if the Pakistani Government does not agree with the rumors currently circulating about the nature and the modus operandi of the Sepah-e Sahaba group, it should immediately issue orders for Sabra's arrest and should execute the sentence against all the accused persons of the group. Otherwise, the protests by public opinion will only wound the religious susceptibilities of the Iranian people and will certainly motivate the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to display an official reaction.

Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves for S. Africa

LD0805090294 Tehran IRNA in English 0839 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi left here this morning for Johannesburg to take part in the oath taking ceremony of the designate South African President Nelson Mandela.

Mandela is the ever first black president in South Africa who gained victory at the general election following the abolition of apartheid in this country.

Hashemi's four-day visit to Johannesburg has been made at the invitation of the committee for the oath taking ceremony of the designate president.

He is the first Iranian high-ranking official to visit the country after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Following the abolition of apartheid, Iran and South Africa in a joint communique May 10 announced the resumption of formal diplomatic relations.

Iran cut off its relations with the apartheid regime of South Africa in the wake of the victory of Islamic revolution in 1979.

UNHCR To Fund Homes for Iraqi Refugees

LD0705211294 Tehran IRNA in English 2044 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 7, IRNA—United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is to finance installation of 400 pre-fab residential units in a refugee camp near Shushtar in this southern province.

Head of UNHCR office in Tehran Pierre Jean Bur said that pre-fab residential units would begin soon at the Mohsen Bani-Najjar refugee camp near Shushtar. He gave no exact date for the start of the project.

He said the project will be implemented in cooperation with the UNHCR office based in Tehran and the foreign national section of the Khuzestan Governorate-General.

Some 2,400 Iraqi refugees who have fled to Iran are now residing in the camp.

Besharati, Russian Envoy Discuss Antidrug Campaign

LD0805191094 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA—Russian Ambassador to Tehran Serguei [name as received] here Sunday suggested that Tehran and Moscow ink a memorandum of understanding on the anti-drugs campaign.

Tretyakov, in his meeting with Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammed Besharati, expressed hope that grounds would be paved for bilateral especially in the campaign against traffickers.

He added that exchange of visits as well as sharing of experience and views by Iranian and Russian officials would help strengthen bilateral relations.

Besharati in return said Russia can play a "positive" role in solving regional disputes.

He expressed satisfaction with the two countries political and economic relations and called for their consolidation and deepening.

The Iranian official hailed the importance of Irano-Russian "historical" ties.

Besharati urged Russia to deal more actively with regional issues and said Russia as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council can play an "important and effective" role on international scenes.

Rowhani Discusses Security, Economic Issues

NC0905111994 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Apr 94 pp 3, 5

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Dr. Hasan Rowhani, Ayatollah Khamene'i's deputy on the Supreme National Security Council, by an unidentified RESALAT correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [RESALAT] As the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, what image of domestic and external security would you project for the Islamic Republic of Iran? What would constitute the most serious threats at home and abroad?

[Rowhani] The image of national security is wonderful, although not ideal. We are talking of the security of a country in which there were changes in every area 15 years ago, when a rare kind of revolution reached fruition. This revolution has numerous enemies. Similarly, we have put behind us a prolonged and major war that lasted eight years, the marks and effects of which have not been obliterated. We are constantly encountering the mischief-making of the counterrevolutionary groups.

Compared with our Northern, Eastern, and Western neighbors, our security is remarkable. The condition of our Southern neighbors is different and a vast array of foreign military forces is present. We should view their situation differently. In those areas, security is provided by others and for their own interests.

We still have some centers of insecurity in the west and east of the country. In the West, Iraq is the root cause of insecurity. In Kordestan, the vestiges of lackey grouplets remain active. A country that has borne the brunt of war for eight years, a war that has included security issues, cannot efface them fast. [passage omitted]

In the eastern regions we have pockets of insecurity stemming from the problem of narcotics. The issue of combating drug smugglers is tackled mostly for human considerations. Generally, the smugglers do not want to distribute drugs in Iran. They mostly want their goods to transit through Iran. The center for manufacturing narcotics is in a region outside Iran, between Pakistan and Afghanistan. They want to use Iran as a route to convey the drugs to Europe and the United States. The primary users of drugs are the Americans and then the Europeans.

The main drug dealers and smugglers are also in the United States and Europe. At times, even Western officials are involved in this smuggling, which was exposed during recent humiliating discoveries in Europe and the United States.

If the corruption in Europe and the United States and the straying of their youth were not important for us, we could ignore our campaign against the smugglers and, naturally, the eastern regions of the country would become completely safe.

It is because of our sense of responsibility toward the fate of mankind that we continue this struggle against these death peddlers. Unfortunately, the Westerners are not only ungrateful to our self-sacrificing forces, they castigate us for our treatment and execution of the smugglers and label it human rights violations.

But we consider ourselves beholden to the fate of humans, as the happiness, health, and good fortune of our fellow beings is one of our mottoes. Thus we can say that we have two centers of insecurity, one of which relates to Iraq and the other to narcotics. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] If possible, let us get to the second part of the question, that is, what is the most important threat?

[Rowhani] We perceive no real threats, whether at home or abroad. Every country plans its security around potential threats, which we also face inside and outside the country.

In a discussion regarding internal security, a potential threat could be that the people become indifferent to the system and the aspirations of the revolution. The day the people become indifferent and do not feel that this country and revolution belong to them, or that the burden of this revolution is on their shoulders, will be the day when we should feel danger. People are the greatest repository of the strength of the country's system. If the people do not remain active in the political, social, and economic arenas, we will face difficulties everywhere.

The enemy has invested much in this regard and constantly seeks—by disseminating innuendo, fallacious statistics, and rumors—to project the impression that the revolution has done nothing for the people, deliberately downplaying its achievements and magnifying minor problems. They want to deprive the revolution of its greatest asset, that is, the people. [passage omitted]

In the sphere of foreign threats, while we are not in a state of war, a potential threat does exist. There are so many foreign warships alongside our water. They can provoke countries and even attack us and initiate a war.

We perceive the prime factor in terms of a foreign threat in the United States, which is a real threat for us. This threat is the powers of world arrogance spearheaded by the United States and its lackey in the region, that is, Israel. Israel implements the United States' instructions. If today we have no real threat we should still be wary of malicious enemies. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] By changing the political geography of Iraq, the powers of world arrogance are seeking to create an area under Kurdish domination that will ultimately lead to the establishment of a greater Kurdistan. Is this not a danger to our security?

[Rowhani] We are opposed to the dismemberment of Iraq and basically all kinds of changes in the political geography of the region. This is something we have

proclaimed frequently. It is unlikely that this will seriously happen in the region. Even if it does, it will pose no threat to us.

First, I should explain that there is a great difference of opinion among the Westerners in this regard. Europe believes in one thing, the United States in another. Even among the Europeans, there is no consensus of opinion. Turkey has a specific viewpoint. The issue is not so simple that in northern Iraq they can so easily create a country called Kurdistan. The countries in this area are very sensitive about this issue, especially Turkey.

If we were to hypothesize that one day Iraq is dismembered and a Kurdish government is set up in northern Iraq, this would not be a threat to us. The people of our Kordestan have realized—with this experiment in autonomy in northern Iraq—the problems that have been generated. They know the hands of the colonialists want to manipulate them constantly and use them in ploys and as puppets. Our Kords have realized that the colonialists seek only their own interests.

We do not differentiate among the Kurds, Turks, or Farsis in Iran. There is no restriction anywhere in Iran, neither in the universities nor in the Majles. Any Kord can be a candidate and become a Majles deputy and participate in the legislative decisions like all the other deputies. In some countries, people are not even ready to mention the term, Kurd. The country that has the most Kurds refers to them as mountain Turks and is not willing even to use the word "Kurd." They have problems but we have no problems right now. Apart from some residual activity by grouplets affiliated with the colonialists and great powers and Iraq—and their number is quite negligible—we have no security problem. You witnessed the dazzling presence of the Kordish people in the 11 February marches in the Kord-inhabited cities.

The people of Kordestan came of their own accord and expressed their sentiments toward the system and the revolution. The participation of people in the Kord-inhabited cities during the elections is never less than in other areas. We have never felt any sense of danger from these areas.

[RESALAT] You mentioned threats from the United States. You know that last year economic relations between Iran and the United States increased considerably. German officials said that the United States is Iran's main economic partner. Isn't this closeness to the United States a threat to our interests? What is your opinion?

[Rowhani] Our relations with the United States were severed in the diplomatic, military, and cultural fields and there is no contact of any kind between us and the United States in these areas. Our economic contacts are not official, merely continuing since 1359 [year beginning 21 March 1980]. Economic relations between [Iranian] companies and American companies were never severed. These relations have occasionally been weak, even moderate, especially in the area of the purchase of oil by American companies.

Nearly anytime we sold oil on the international market the American companies bought it. The high figure that is sometimes quoted is a two-way figure, much of it pertaining to the purchase of our oil by American companies.

[RESALAT] What is the figure?

[Rowhani] I have no precise figures but mostly it concerns the purchase of oil. Last year the volume of exchanges with us increased, with a very positive result. This is because the United States constantly exerted pressure on Europe and Japan to reduce their volume of trade with Iran. The Americans asked: Why do you not reduce the level of your trade relations with Iran? Why do you purchase goods from Iran and make its economy flourish? The announcement of these figures has now floored them completely.

Now most of the G-7 countries openly attack the United States and ask: Why did you ask us to reduce the quantum of our trade with Iran when you yourself have increased your trade relations with Iran? This topic has generated serious discord among them. I believe that the ploy the Americans had in hand and wished to use against the Islamic Republic of Iran has been lost.

It is to our benefit that our real trading partners, namely Japan and Europe, should know that there is another competitor and this gives our companies greater strength to maneuver in international economic relations.

It is clear that in this rivalry, we have a greater choice in our hands, which will bring prices down, raise the quality, and ensure greater facilities. We must consider our own interests in trade relations. I think the United States has been exposed before the Europeans and the Japanese and a blow has been dealt to its credibility.

[RESALAT] But there is another danger. If there comes a time when only American companies are the buyers of our oil or of much of it, and if they suddenly decide not to buy the oil, this will undoubtedly cause us a lot of problems. Will it not?

[Rowhani] You should see who buys our oil in the market. In any case, a considerable percentage is bought by the Americans on the international market. But we have never relied on this purchase. The volume of our sales is not such that it could generate problems for us.

The basis of the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been to diversify and not depend on one source. If a problem arises, we will have room to maneuver and solve our problem. But in the case of the United States, our sales from American companies should be restricted to what is absolutely necessary. Nothing else.

[RESALAT] No clear answer has been received from our officials on our debts, that is, on why and how we ran up such debts. Who is responsible for this and what will be our situation?

[Rowhani] We have few problems with debts.

[RESALAT] Would this not be a question of security?

[Rowhani] In this context, every issue can become a security issue from a particular perspective, be it political, cultural, economic, or even educational. I wish to state that our debts are not high, no more than expected. Our debts are what was envisaged in the first Five-Year Plan. We permitted the government to make the pledges.

[RESALAT] The period for repaying foreign debts will expire in the next two or three years. Do you not think that this will create a serious problem for the next president?

[Rowhani] There are two factors for the next presidential tenure: One is that the main projects in which we have invested in recent years will become operational and the future president need only inaugurate these projects. [second factor not mentioned]

Of course there is the problem of debts but these are not expected to reach a very mind-shattering level, so we foresee no serious problem.

If we depend only on oil then we will always have this problem.

[RESALAT] The projection was $27 billion but we have now pledged over $30 billion. The nature of the debts varies.

[Rowhani] We will manage one way or the other. The volume is not such that it would be very amazing. Our commitments are below $30 billion, that is, nearly the amount envisaged in the Plan. They do not overstep the prescribed limits and are within the volume projected.

To have foreign commitments worth 20 plus billion dollars is not a very big deal. It is quite natural for a country with an income of $20-25 billion to have foreign commitments on the same level. This is lower than the international norm. If the projections in the Plan had been envisaged in foreign exchange earnings, these problems would not have arisen.

For example, we predicted in the Plan that the quantity of our nonoil exports should be approximately $18 billion. We viewed this in the context of our total income. But the export of our nonoil products is not within our control such that we can incorporate it in our programs.

Our other problem was the slump in oil prices, which created problems with regard to our reimbursements. Oil prices are very inappropriate as there is too much of a difference from the OPEC base price.

Another problem is the parity of the dollar. The fluctuations the dollar has had in the course of the first Five-Year Plan have cost us $6 billion, because we sell against the dollar and buy mostly against the mark.

That we have $25-30 billion of foreign commitments poses no problem, in view of our income. Our problem stems from the collective repayment falling due soon. Our problem is not the commitment but the cash flow. We made short-term commitments, which would have caused no problems had they been medium or long-term ones. So it just happened that some repayments fell due all at the same time and created this situation.

Some may say our foreign exchange management is weak and that we could have organized it better. But it is not easy to pin down who is to blame, as most of the decisions are made collectively by the Supreme Economic Council and the Cabinet. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] The necessary forecasts should have been made. Again this makes the management answerable.

[Rowhani] True, the government, the Central Bank, and the Majles should have anticipated this situation but the fact is that when the Five-Year Plan was being compiled, there was no way of foreseeing that the oil price would plummet so much. No one could have thought that oil prices would reach the level they reached in 1353 [year beginning 21 March 1974]. (The value of the dollar is under 10 percent of what it was then).

[RESALAT] In view of its experiences in 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993], the Majles has presented a more realistic budget for 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994], applying much caution and thought. For example, it is specified how much will be allocated to the repayment of commitments from our anticipated income. The Majles made this allocation and included different scenarios with a different plan to be followed in each case. As for our commitments, I can sum up briefly:

1. The volume of the outstanding debts did not exceed what was envisaged in the Five-Year Plan.

2. All the problems that arose were not the fault of the management. If the oil price had not slumped and we had not had a cashflow problem, this situation would not have arisen. I am optimistic that with the attention the Majles and the president will pay to this issue, we will have no similar problems in future. Of course, we have found some specific solutions for the repayment of our debts and the problem of careless debts has almost been solved.

But because of the caution by the Majles, the budget for this year is rather tight. Ministers don't usually favor such budgets.

Central Bank Official Says Economy Improving

LD0605184594 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—A Central Bank advisor after reviewing the current economic developments, has said that Iran which has a population of 60 million, last year earned dlrs 7 billion through exports and this means that many capacities have been created in the country.

Dr. Kashani said at the joint assembly of the Chambers of Commerce of Iran and Germany, last night that it is true that the country and the banks over the past two years faced delay of payments but for this loss during the past four years more work was done than predicted in the first 5-year plan. The average growth of 8.1 per cent gnp is a good sympton of what the country has gained, he added.

He said in the year 1367 (1988-89) Iran imported 4.5 to 5 million tons of wheat every year while this figure in the years 1371 and 1372 (1993-94) decreased to 2.5 million tons.

The importation of almost four million tons of iron and steel in 1367 was changed to the export of one million tons of these materials in 1372, according to Kashani.

Referring to the fact that the capacity of oil production in the country has reached from 2.5 million bpd in 1367 to 4.5 bpd last year, he said Iran's five-year development plan has proved it success with less than 500 foreign experts, and the growth of its capital formation has reached 23 per cent of GNP.

Another official, Allahyari, said in the same meeting that a committee had been set up at the office of the economic affairs deputy at the presidential office, involving the Ministries of Economy and Finance, Commerce, the budget and planning organization and the Central Bank to control the level of the country's foreign exchange commitments.

He expressed hope that Iran and Germany will make progress in cultural areas also in view of their good relations in the economic and trade fields.

Head of the Chamber of Commerce 'Ali-Naqi Khamoushi said the relations between Iran and Germany were never severed even during the imposed war (1980-88).

He said certain mischievous hands were trying to mar the two countries' good relations.

Ministry Official Discusses Export Figures

LD0905103994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 May 94

[Excerpt] The annual export share of the industrial sector, affiliated to the Industries Ministry, was 42 percent of the country's total industrial exports figure in the year 1372 [Iranian year ending 20 March 1994].

While announcing this, the industrial and production affairs deputy of the Industries Ministry said today in an exclusive interview with our correspondent: The country's industrial exports figures increased from 60 million dollars in the year 1368 to 440 million dollars in the year 1372. Thanks to the growing trend of exports, it is forecast that the figure will increase to 500 million dollars in the current year.

He added: A stable rate of foreign currency, precise planning of industrial projects, and stability of the country's economic policy are very effective factors in oiling the wheels of the country's industry. He further stressed that the foreign currency earned from the non-oil exports fully meets the demands of the industrial sector for hard currency. [passage omitted]

Twenty-Two State Firms Ready for Privatization

LD0705190294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Twenty-two large industrial and production companies under the supervision of the Organization for the Development and Modernization of Iranian Industries [OEMII] will be transferred to the private sector.

In a statement published this afternoon, OEMII, an affiliation of the Ministry of Heavy Industries, said: In accordance with government economic policy, shares in the 22 companies will be transferred through Tehran's stock exchange or auction.

Companies whose shares are totally ready for transfer to the private sector are active in the production of machines, light and heavy vehicles, engines, as well as engineering and road-construction machinery.

Central Bank, Belgium Agree To Reschedule Debt

NC0705065494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Belgium have reached an agreement for the repayment of Iran's debts. This agreement was signed by a delegation of the Central Bank of Iran and officials from the Belgian Government's insurance institute. It includes all Iranian importers' debts which expired by April 1994 as well as all credit documents for the current year.

The initial grace period is 26 months for the agreement and the repayment time is four years. In addition to all insured dealings, it was agreed all of the noninsured credits will also be reimbursed in accordance with these arrangements by banks and retailers, as well as the Central Bank of Iran. The sum envisaged under this agreement is approximately $200 million.

Foreign Ministry Body To Boost Trade With Africa

NC0805070194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] A headquarters for coordination with Africa has been established under the supervision of the Foreign Ministry for the purpose of broadening economic relations, commercial, and banking services with African countries.

According to the Central News Unit, the head of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Mines announced yesterday that in addition to the inauguration of a shipping line between Iranian and African ports, some air links will also be initiated shortly with those countries.

Support Only for Journals Following 'Islamic System'

LD0705211994 Tehran IRNA in English 2100 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—According to an official of the Ministry of Guidance only the journals that follow the strategy of the Islamic system will be supported.

The managing director for the domestic press section of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry Mojtaba Hamedani told IRNA here Friday that the press should take into consideration objectives of the system, press duties, existing realities and the demands of the majority of the people if they claimed they were concerned over the cultural growth of the country.

"The press and publications acting in accordance with the law will be supported," Hamedani said. He added that criticism and discussing practical strategies to solve the problems was the main raison d'etre of the press.

He also added that there would be some facilities in the future for the press such as a press house, press club and other facilities for journalists.

Pakistan

Two Indian 'Terrorists' Arrested; Explosives Found

BK0905145594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Two Indian terrorists have been apprehended by Pakistani troops after they crossed the Line of Control in Nikyal subsector of Azad Kashmir on the night of 4th and 5th of this month. Over 18 kg of explosives along with accessories and two tubes of rocket launchers have also been recovered from the saboteurs. According to preliminary investigations, the terrorists—Mohammad Yusuf, son of Sain Mohammad; and Mohammad, son of Raj Mohammad—belong to village (Neka Panchgaran) of Indian-held Kashmir. During interrogation, it has transpired that the two saboteurs received training in handling of explosives at a Gurkha Rifle unit of the Indian Army. They were roped in by one RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agent, Havaldar [petty military officer] Sharma, through coercion. They were also promised that handsome amount will be paid to them on return with a warning that if they refused to carry out the orders, they would be shot dead and declared intruders.

Prior to the agents' entry into Nikyal subsector of Kotli, the Indian troops deployed near the Line of Control started heavy firing on the flanks first to divert the attention of the Pakistani troops, and also intimidate local population so that the terrorists could enter undetected. But this commonly used tactic of Indians aroused suspicion and Pakistani troops became extra vigilant. As the two terrorists penetrated into Azad Kashmir area, they were nabbed by a local patrol. Both the agents have confessed that they have been visiting various places in Azad Kashmir and Pakistan in the past for the purpose of sabotage. The terrorists have also confessed that a large number of educated Kashmiri youth are being imparted terrorism training by Indian soldiers under threat of maltreatment.

Daily Sees U.S.-India Conspiracy Against China

BK0905091194 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 8 May 94 p 10

[Editorial: "China's Protest to the United States"]

[Text] The People's Republic of China has strongly protested to the United States against the adoption of a legislation concerning Taiwan and Tibet. The Chinese vice foreign minister summoned the U.S. ambassador in Beijing and made it clear to him that the United States has interfered in China's internal affairs by approving that law. Meanwhile, speaking at the U.S. Foreign Relations Committee's session, the architect of the Pressler Amendment, Senator Larry Pressler, accused China of developing nuclear missiles capable of striking the United States, which can create security concerns among neighboring countries.

The question is: Has Senator Larry Pressler taken onto his shoulder the onus of creating causes of friction in Pakistan's and China's relations with the developed nations? One can ask this because his every statement seems to be directed toward protecting the interests of India or Israel. Under these circumstances, if one were to say that Larry Pressler and Stephen Solarz are political cognates, then it would not be inappropriate. In his aforementioned statement, without naming India, Larry Pressler tried to bring home the point that Chinese missiles with the capacity to strike the United States could pose a threat to India's security. It seems India is fast increasing its lobbying in the U.S. political and legislative institutions to purchase Patriot missiles and technology from that country.

As for Taiwan and Tibet, Pakistan recognizes these two regions as parts of China. However, India and the United States are gradually carrying forward their policies under a well thought-out plan to create an uprising against Beijing in Tibet and make Taiwan refuse to come under the sway of Beijing's administration. The United States, after having deferred the Tibet issue to India, is now playing the role of a silent spectator and is keeping the Taiwan issue directly in its own hands. If all these things are analyzed, then it will become crystal clear in the very first stage that the conspiracies to blockade China from all sides are being executed very cunningly. The recent U.S. approval of a legislation about Tibet and Taiwan also points to the Indo-U.S. conspiracy against China.

The seminars currently being organized in Pakistan to pave the way for the implementation of the U.S. plan to divide the state of Jammu and Kashmir also seem to be a link in the chain of this conspiracy. The people of Pakistan openly support the protestations made by the Chinese vice foreign minister against the U.S. law and demand that Washington stop its increasing acts of interference in the Asian region, because it is essential for the preservation of global peace.

North Korean Envoy Backs Nuclear Program

BK1005084794 Islamabad THE NATION in English 10 May 94 pp 1,9

[Text] Rawalpindi (PPI)—North Korea supports Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme, said the North Korean Ambassador to Pakistan Mr Choe Su-il.

He was informally talking to the PPI after a function held in connection with annual prize distribution ceremony of Little Angels School, which co-incided with the 17th foundation day of the institution.

He said the perceptions of Pakistan and Korea on the nuclear issue were identical as Pakistan had an expressed desire for a nuclear free South Asia, while Korea wanted nuclear free Korean peninsula.

Asked would it be justified to pressurize Pakistan on unilaterally signing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) he said "it is upto the Government of Pakistan to make a decision in this regard".

The Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Korea (DPRK) earlier in his address said Pakistan and Korea enjoyed excellent traditional relations adding that the ties of friendship had further been cemented by the visit of Pakistan's delegation headed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Korea. "We highly value the friendship with Pakistan and will do our best too further promote the ties", Choe Su-il maintained.

Underlining the importance of education he said it played key role for the nations to achieve the target of progress and prosperity.

The Principal of the school Mrs Salma Siddiqui presented a momento from all the 'angels' and staff of the school to the chief guest.

The DPRK Ambassador presented a traditional Korean painting to Mrs Siddiqui and donated some books for the school library.

Students of the school, wearing colourful dresses, presented interesting tableaus and sung amusing songs on the occasion. They also presented plays to entertain the participants of the function. The chief guest distributed prizes among the students who showed remarkable performance in curricular and co-curricular activities during the year.

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